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Area Ministers, Presidents on Panama Elections

IDC Condemns Nullification

PA1505200089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1520 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Caracas, 15 May (EFE)—Christian Democracy International [Internacional Democrata Cristiana, IDC] today warned about a possible U.S. "interventionist adventure" in Panama and criticized the nullification of Panama's 7 May elections.

In a communique released in Caracas, the IDC, whose secretary general is former Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins, expressed its solidarity with the charges made by the international observers who were present during the Panamanian elections.

It stated that these charges make known the maneuvers to distort the people's will and "prolong the de facto government of the military leadership headed by General Manuel Antonio Noriega."

The IDC described the nullification of the elections by the Electoral Tribunal as "unacceptable," adding that this was done "without any legal grounds, because the only true reason for doing so was the fact that the opposition won the elections."

It said this nullification is obvious recognition of the opposition's victory and the Panamanian Government's "willingness to commit fraud."

The IDC also stressed its opposition "to any U.S. adventure of military intervention in Panama, which would violate the basic principles of international policy and law and which would be rejected by the entire Latin American community."

Referring to the OAS foreign ministers meeting on 17 May, the IDC expressed confidence that the continent's democratic solidarity would be strengthened and that formulas would emerge for the good of the Panamanian people.

The IDC also congratulated the Panamanian Christian Democratic Party and the other democratic forces "for their determination and courage in defense of the right to self-determination that the civic-minded Panamanian people expressed on 7 May."

'Evaluate' Current Situation

PY1605120889 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 16 May 89 p 2

[Text] Following the inaugural ceremony of General Andres Rodriguez, Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, Paraguayan Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana, Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tessano, Peruvian Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox, Bolivian Foreign Minister Valentin Abecia Baldivieso, and Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Mario Aleman Salvador, met to evaluate the current situation in Panama on the evening of the meeting on Panama that is being promoted by the OAS.

At the Yatch and Golf Club Hotel, where the presidents of Paraguay, Andres Rodriguez; Brazil, Jose Sarney; Uruguay, Julio Maria Sanguinetti; and of Argentina, Raul Alfonsin, had lunch, the region's foreign ministers held the so-called "minisummit." The ministers agreed to condemn the electoral fraud in Panama and demanded a political solution to the problem that the Caribbean nation is currently facing—a problem in which a climate of violence reigns and which reveals harsh prospects for that nation which is governed by General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Although the national and international press did not have access to the confidential meeting of the South American foreign ministers, which lasted for 90 minutes, after it finished it could be noted that there was full agreement regarding the specific topic that had been discussed. It was learned that Venezuela and Peru had submitted a draft project that served as a basis for seeking an agreement on the Panamanian problem, based on the respect for self-determination of the peoples and on the right of that country to choose its own destiny.

The foreign ministers made it clear that they will reject any military option that seeks to twist the destiny of the isthmus, and stressed that the OAS meeting must adopt political measures in order to seek a democratic normalization of Panama.

Therefore, it is understandable that the general opinion of most of the countries during tomorrow's OAS meeting will be that of a negotiated outlet to the social and political problem of the Caribbean nation, which has become even more serious following the frustrated elections that were held a week ago.

Although the topic of regional integration was to have been the main item on the agenda of the minisummit, it turned out that the Panamanian situation was the main topic that was discussed by the foreign ministers and presidents who participated in the inaugural ceremony of General Rodriguez. Following yesterday's meeting, which lasted for approximately 90 minutes, the majority of the political personalities who were in Asuncion returned to their respective countries, while others went directly to Washington.

Sarney Rejects Intervention

PY1605144689 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 16 May 89 p 2

[Text] Following the meeting of the four chiefs of state in Asuncion yesterday, Brazilian President Jose Sarney said that he shares Argentine President Raul Alfonsin's view on the Panamanian crisis. "I discussed the Panamanian situation with President Alfonsin and we agreed that all Latin American countries should adopt a common position to ensure the continuation of the democratic process in the continent," Sarney said.

Sarney said that the regional democratic process, with its peculiarities must be defended within its own context.

Asked if he favored an armed intervention to restore public order in Panama, Sarney said he would never agree to a military intervention.

"It would not be appropriate for a stronger country to ignore the principle of nonintervention regarding another country," he added.

Referring to a possible military intervention in Panama, Sarney said, "That would mean a step backward. It would mean returning to the big stick policy, which would not help Panama."

What is being sought, Sarney said, is respect for the Panamanian people's desires which were expressed and accepted in the last elections.

Rather than a military intervention, the Brazilian president reiterated that he favors respect for the popular will that the Panamanian people expressed in the last elections.

Caputo Talks About Panama

PY1605145489 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 16 May 89 p 3

[Text] "Argentina believes that two basic principles are necessary for the Panamanian process; the noninterference of foreign powers, of course, and the same drive as occurred with the Paraguayan democratization process. We deeply regret and express our concern for what is happening in Panama," Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said.

Caputo said that the regional foreign ministers also talked about increasing bilateral relations and subjects common to the American countries present at the minisummit in Asuncion.

Although no official declaration was made by the six foreign ministers who met in Paraguay, it can be deduced that the main subject that worries the Latin American political world is the Panamanian situation. The basis of what may become a final OAS resolution in Washington tomorrow was laid in Asuncion. They agreed to reject any attempted military intervention in Panama and to respect the right of self-determination by the Panamanian people.

Cuba

U.S. To Seek Support From Region on Panama

FL1605140389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The United States has reiterated its position to seek Latin American support to approve future OAS agreements on Panama's domestic crisis during the regional organization's foreign ministers meeting beginning in Washington tomorrow.

The U.S. stand was announced during a news conference by White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater who announced that the Bush administration will not present any motion in the OAS ministers conference.

Meanwhile in Panama, legislator Rigoberto Paredes told the press that ruling parliamentarians are analyzing alternatives for the forming of a government on 1 September. This is when ruling President Manuel Solis Palma's mandate is over. He added that those analyses are being made because it is practically impossible to hold elections before this time. He said the creation of a provisional government junta is among the options being considered. A system with the post of prime minister could also be implemented.

Several Latin American countries have expressed in the last hours their rejection of interference in Panama's domestic affairs as a result of the crisis created in the country after last 7 May elections. Mexico demanded the respect of the principles of noninterference and self-determination of the peoples and rejected that the OAS be turned into a tribunal of electoral processes during the organization's 21st consultation meeting of foreign ministers scheduled to begin in Washington tomorrow. For its part, Brazil rejected the heavy-handed policy Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has asked to be applied on Panama. At the same time, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressed his opposition to foreign intervention in the Panamanian domestic crisis and stressed that the United States is not the United Nations.

U.S. Wants 'To Divide' Latin America at OAS

FL1605152089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1418 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] At the OAS headquarters in Washington tomorrow, the United States will apply all its tricks and methods of blackmail to divide the Latin American nations. Even though the meeting was requested by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, everyone throughout the continent knows that the United States has the greatest interest in this meeting because it wants support for its policy of interference in Panama. White House and State Department spokesmen say that the United States feels that consulting the OAS on the Panamanian conflict is a priority.

The United States is seeking an OAS resolution that will put pressure on Panama and demand the permanent resignation of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, head of the Panamanian Defense Forces.

Venezuelan President Perez not only called for an OAS meeting, he also warned yesterday, in an interview in THE WASHINGTON POST, that he may request that the Group of Eight completely exclude Panama. The eight nations that comprise the Contadora and Support Groups for a political solution to the Central American conflict provisionally excluded Panama when Eric Arturo Delvalle was replaced as president.

Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter warned that Panama should be analyzed by the OAS as a nation that is confronting an imminent military attack. This position has been clearly confirmed with the arrival of new U.S. troops and military equipment to the Southern Command. The current situation is similar to the one that preceded the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983.

Panama To Present Intervention Report at OAS

FL1605222889 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1936 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Today, Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter said that an extensive report on U.S. interference in Panamanian internal affairs will be presented to the OAS.

At tomorrow's OAS meeting, requested by Venezuela, Ritter affirmed that he will not have a defensive attitude nor discuss matters of exclusive competence [as heard].

The head of Panamanian foreign affairs also said that Panama is the country that has to do most of the talking at the continental meeting because it is the victim of merciless U.S. aggression. He stressed that this is what the meeting should concentrate on because the OAS cannot be turned into a court of appeals nor a large-scale version of Panamanian courts to solve Panamanian internal affairs.

Government 'To Respond' to Television Marti

FL1605163689 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1544 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Havana, 16 May (NOTIMEX)—The installation of Television Marti, scheduled for next October, has stopped being an element of ideological struggle and propaganda and turned into a violation of Cuban sovereignty. Jorge Gomez Barata, department chief of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, said the station, which will broadcast from the United States, violated the island's airspace, according to applicable international agreements.

The Cuban Government will respond with all available measures; political, diplomatic, and technical. The station will carry a specific programming in Spanish against the largest Caribbean island, as it did with Radio Marti, which operates from Washington and has relayed its signal from Miami since May 1985.

Gomez Barata said it had been announced that Television Marti's 3-month pilot program will cost $12 million. Those funds were obtained from the Voice of America's budget by cutting back on some programs beamed to Asia.

He added: We are not against a television program exchange between Cuba and the United States inasmuch as 35 percent of the broadcast time of Cuban television is filled with U.S. films.

When Radio Marti began its operations, Cuba suspended the immigration treaty established with the United States a year before. Through the agreement, the United States would issue 20,000 visas a year to Cubans who wanted to travel to its territory and 3,000 more to political prisoners and their relatives.

Cuba pledged to receive 2,700 Marielitos. The treaty was resumed in November 1987 and is in effect. TV Marti's operations need to be approved by the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee and, after that, has to be voted on by Congress.

Cuba has television channels 6 and 2 and one called Canal del Sol for tourists, which is broadcast to hotels through cable.

GDR's Mueckenberger Arrives for Visit

LD1705084589 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0606 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Havana (ADN)—Erich Mueckenberger, chairman of the Central Control Commission of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] Central Committee and member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, arrived in Havana last night on an official visit. He was warmly welcomed at "Jose Marti" International Airport by Omar Iser Mojena, deputy chairman of the National Control and Review Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Erich Mueckenberger is leading an SED Central Committee delegation on a regular exchange of experiences of the party control organs of the SED and the Communist Party of Cuba, which is taking place in Havana. He will also meet for talks with representatives of the Cuban party and state leadership and visit enterprises set up with GDR support as well as landmarks of the Revolution and of the socialist reconstruction in Cuba.

Minister of Higher Education Arrives in Quito

FL1505132889 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] A Cuban cultural delegation is in Quito, Ecuador and will tour several cities in the country. Also in Quito is Fernando Vecino [Alegret], Cuban minister of higher education, who will carry out a 1-week official visit.

Syrian Delegation Holds Talks in Havana

JN1605175189 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Havana, 15 May [date as received] (SANA)—A round of the Syrian-Cuban talks has begun between a delegation of the Syrian-Cuban Friendship Association led by Comrade Rashid Akhtarini, Regional Command member and chairman of the association, and a delegation of the Cuban-Arab Friendship Association led by Levi Farah, president of the Cuban Friendship with the Peoples Institute, president of the Cuban-Arab Friendship Association, and minister of construction materials industry.

The talks centered on the activities of both associations in Syria and Cuba and ways to promote them in the political, cultural, and economic areas. The two sides agreed on the provisions of the final formula of the friendship and cooperation agreement, which will be signed in the Cuban capital tomorrow.

The delegation of the Syrian-Cuban Friendship Association arrived in Cuba on Saturday morning led by Comrade Akhtarini. The delegation was received at the airport by Professor Alvarez Cambras, Central Committee member and vice president of the Cuban-Arab Friendship Association, and a number of friendship and Foreign Ministry officials.

During its stay, the Syrian delegation held a meeting with Doris Rodriguez, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and head of the Popular Organizations Department.

CEMA Countries' Chambers of Commerce Meet

FL1605173989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The chiefs of international directorates of the chambers of commerce of the CEMA member countries have been meeting at the Capri Hotel's protocol room in our capital since this morning. This conference will deal with, among other important subjects, the businessmen's meeting of CEMA member countries and Latin America, which will be held in Havana on 3 and 4 November 1989, sponsored by the Cuban Chamber of Commerce. Its aim will be to promote direct and active participation of the enterprise sectors of Latin America and CEMA member countries.

In addition, this conference will analyze the participation of CEMA member countries in Havana's seventh international fair that will be held in EXPOCUBA between 6 and 12 November of this year. Latin American countries will be represented in this important trade event.

Rodriguez Meets Third World Foundation Leader

FL1605143189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1230 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Aldaf Gaujara, secretary general of the Foundation for the Third World and editor in chief of (SOUCH) magazine. During the work visit he is paying Cuba, Aldaf Gaujara will give details on the preparations of the conference that will be held in our country on May of 1990. The meeting will analyze the changing international situation and its effect on Third World countries.

UN's Perez on Havana, Luanda Cooperation

FL1205132489 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] UN General Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar has stated that the cooperation given to the UN verification mission in Angola by the Cuban and Angolan Governments has been excellent. Perez made this declaration in a report submitted to the UN Security Council.

Between last January and April, the UN mission has tallied the withdrawal of 6,885 Cuban men from that African country. This figure is more than was originally agreed upon in the agreements signed by Luanda and Havana.

Havana To Host Crime Prevention Meeting in 1990

FL1305120489 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Cuba will show the advances it has made in penal policies when the Eighth UN Congress of Crime Prevention takes place in Cuba.

This declaration was just made in San Jose, Costa Rica, by Juan Escalona, minister of justice. Escalona is in Costa Rica taking part in the meeting which gave Havana the right to organize the forum which will be held in August 1990.

Justice Minister Comments

FL1605153589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1150 GMT 16 May 89

[Interview with Justice Minister Juan Escalona Reguera by Richard Clenton; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Clenton] Minister, we know that Cuba is going to host the eighth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. What does this mean for our country?

[Escalona] It it truly important because of the following: It is the first UN congress that is going to be held in a socialist country. We submitted to the UN Economic and Social Council Cuba's request to host this congress over a year ago. A regional preparatory meeting on the congress was held in San Jose. I can tell you with complete satisfaction that Cuba's proposal was accepted unanimously. All Latin American countries, including Chile, Haiti, Uruguay, and Paraguay agreed for Cuba to host the congress. It was something truly exciting. I believe this shows what is happening in Latin America at this time.

[Clenton] Was there any kind of opposition from the part of any country or were any kind of objections raised?

[Escalona] Absolutely none. The only one to have any objections in this process for Cuba to win the hosting of the eighth congress is the United States. They have said that they will not attend if the congress is held in Cuba. They first said they would not come because we were questionable in the area of human rights. There have been no questions on human rights after Geneva. All Latin American countries decided for Cuba to host the congress. Later I heard that this decision had already been discussed in New York and that we had gotten 43 votes in favor and 2 against.

Clenton, why is this important? First, because Cuba has things to show. With the things we have done on the changes to the criminal law, the efforts we have made on penitentiary matters, etc. I believe we can proudly show the achievements our country has made and it is also important because Cuba is a socialist and Latin American country. The chance for us to have representatives from countries of our region is very important. It is important for them to see what we are doing and to break a little with everything that has been said about our country, the complications, the contradictions, etc. We have very important things to show.

[Clenton] Could you give us a preview of the topics that will be discussed and tell us when this congress will be held in our capital?

[Escalona] Well, the United Nations decided that the congress will be held during the last week of August and first of September of next year.

The topics are very important. We need to discuss the matters related with crime prevention and treatment of the offender within the framework of development. Development is a crisis for some countries. It is disorganized and unplanned development. We will also have to discuss drug trafficking; the problems of terrorism, state terrorism, and terrorism in general; and organized crime.

I said in San Jose that Latin American countries could not act with an open hand because an open hand is used to stroke. We have to make a fist and face all these situations. According to what we heard in the San Jose meeting, the information gathered on some countries is truly tragic. This is the case in Peru, Colombia, and Bolivia. The event's delegates explained very tragic situations on drug smuggling, abuse of power, and killings. We are so far away from all that. We are very far away. We can show the continent and the world the things we have done. I believe the struggle for Cuba to win this hosting is important. I believe it is very important. I believe it is very important to show to the world our achievements in this area. It is not a productive area but it is very important in the social area.

[Clenton] Minister, thank you very much. We thank Dr Juan Escalona Reguera, minister of justice, for this interview for "Morning Magazine" [name of program].

Soviet Ship Carrying Oil Docks in Matanzas

FL1305122089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] The deep-water docks of the Matanzas supertanker base have officially begun to function. Yesterday, the Soviet ship (Tuz Vas) docked there after arriving from the Soviet Union. The ship carried a cargo of 134,500 tons of oil.

Castro Addresses Ciego de Avila Workers

FL1205125189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 11 May 89

["Speech" by President Fidel Castro in Ciego de Avila at the banner-awarding ceremony of the Roberto Rodriguez, El Vaquerito, and Heroes of Cuito Cuanavale Contingent, date not given—recorded]

[Text] The idea of reaching Cayo Coco on a causeway is an old one. For a long time, we waited for its completion. Like our comrade here said, several years ago they took the initiative of creating some plans for that causeway. That was for the visit we made here back then. We went all the way up to the area where the group of comrades had gone with their equipment. Years ago, we had gone all the way there. At that time, we toured Cayo Coco.

We saw the natural resources of Cayo Coco, its marvelous beaches—over 20 km of beaches. That increased our desire to finally carry out the project. However, as I was telling you earlier, we had to experiment with the first kilometer to see what would happen. That is how the first group of this contingent was organized. I think the first three trucks that arrived here were KP-3 trucks. We followed closely and were continuously informed about what was happening. We were told how many truckloads of rock were used daily, how many were used for the construction of the causeway, how many cubic meters per linear meter of rock were used. We were informed about the depth and amount of water, amount of mud, cost per cubic meter. We were advised on the cost of salaries, fuel, amortization of equipment, fuse, detonators, dynamite, etc. From the very beginning, a detailed account was kept of the cost of each meter and kilometer.

We slowly found out many things. Anyone would have thought that to build a causeway to Cayo Coco would have meant an incredible expense in fuel. One of the first things we were surprised about was that the cost of fuel per kilometer was not much. We had to spend a certain amount on dynamite because it is necessary to (?produce) certain things. The cost was turning out to be much lower than what anyone would have imagined a causeway would have cost. Naturally, good organization from the very beginning was a decisive factor in this, as well as the formation of a brigade that is dedicated to work, and the discipline and the spirit of a contingent. Before the first contingent was organized in the capital, this brigade had already been organized and had set its norms for organization, discipline, and control. As you can see, now you can go from one side to the other in a matter of minutes. Over there, I saw some border patrol people. I asked them how their trip was. They said that back then it used to take them 9 hours to go from Punta Alegre to that place.

The progress that has been made in the construction of the causeway during these 2 years is truly extraordinary. The progress that has been made in drawing up the plans for the development of Cayo Coco is also extraordinary. There is already a main plan for the development of Cayo Coco. The first camps are already under construction for the workers who are going to build the hotels there. That will be an easy task, since we already have the causeway. It will permit transportation of all the materials, and everything else that is needed for the construction. The camp we have just seen for the first group that is going to work there is an excellent camp. It has a dining room that looks more like a restaurant; it even has tiles in the kitchen, and in the area where they serve. It has excellent lodging and stores. That is how the living conditions are being created for those who will build there.

Cayo Coco will turn into a mine of resources for the country. The foreigners who have visited have been amazed by the beauty of this place. They are even more amazed at this project. It is said that the tourists will like the trip on the causeway. As it was said here, most bridges have already been finished. The (Vadiso) Bridge is almost complete. Very few bridges remain to be finished. One can already start to see the benefits of the causeway. The strength it has already can be seen. The causeway has withstood winds and floods, and we trust that this causeway will pass any test. If there are any problems with it, we will build it higher, we will not be frightened by any problem. If one day we get a big hurricane which damages the causeway, we will immediately repair it.

The causeway already has great use. How could you build the thousands and thousands of rooms that are going to be built there? How could you build a complete tourist town without that causeway? Just imagine if you had to take it all [passage indistinct]. The national territory has been expanded by over 350 square km thanks to you, because Cayo Coco was ours but we could not do anything with it. We needed a causeway.

I think you will always feel proud of having participated in this task which has enlarged our territory. Before, Cayo Coco was ours only in theory, but we could not do anything there. Cayo Coco has enriched our territory, the province. It will provide important economic services to the country. By working you make progress, you are witnesses to that—working with organization, efficiency, discipline, and seriousness. As you already know, there are approximately 20,000 workers organized in contingents. Just look at their strength! In very little time, in less than 2 years, 20,000 men have been organized in contingents. The contingents produce double the amount with half of the people. That is how the country makes progress.

It does not mean that we will always have to make these efforts. In the future this will not be necessary. However, I say that from now to the year 2000, and that is not far away, we must work like this: with the spirit of a contingent. There will be a time when this will not be such a necessity because we will have made much more progress. You are forging the future, and the future generations of our country will always have to recognize your work, pay tribute to you, and will always be proud of you. We will be able to say to them that it was the revolutionaries who made the new fatherland possible. It was made possible by the true revolutionaries, not in name but in actions. [applause] That is why it is such a satisfaction for us to give you the banners you have earned with the heroism of your work. Fatherland or death, we shall win! [applause]

Espin Decorates Officials for Work in ANAP

FL1305015089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 May 89

[Excerpt] Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women, has presented the 23 August Award to Comrades Jose Ramirez Cruz, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo, and Orlando Lugo Fonte, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the National Association of Small Farmers, ANAP, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the agrarian reform and peasants day to be marked on 17 May.

The resolution read during the ceremony highlighted how the two leaders, through their work in the ANAP, have been enthusiastic promoters of the incorporation of peasant women to the economic, political, and social life in the country. To that effect, they have made valuable actions restoring the rights of women's participation in complete equality. [passage omitted]

Internationalists Render Honors at Cacahual

FL1305184789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] This morning, a welcoming ceremony was given at the Cacahual Mausoleum for the internationalists who returned from Angola 3 days ago.

[Begin Armando Hart Davalos, culture minister, recording—identified by caption] The great grandchildren of the Bronze Titan took to Africa their revolutionary support to the descendants of the slaves who, centuries ago, were brought to America by the European powers. [as heard] In the continent of Lumumba, Agostinho Neto, Samora Machel, and Nelson Mandela, the internationalists, embraced with their brothers to fight for Angola, for Namibia's right to independence, and against the shameful system of apartheid. [end recording]

Beforehand, the internationalists placed a floral wreath before the mausoleum that holds the remains of General Antonio and his aid, Panchito Gomez Toro, as well as rendering honors to Comrade Blas Roca Calderio.

The ceremony was also presided over by Division General Raul Menendez Tomassevich and other PCC and mass organization leaders. Finally, the internationalists hugged with their relatives.

Open Agenda Discusses Country's AIDS Program

FL1205170189

[Editorial Report] Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish at 0100 GMT on 9 May carries live broadcast of "Open Agenda" program hosted by Miguel Rivero. His guests are only identified as the director of the National Center for Health Education, representative of the Ministry of Education, and an author.

The program begins with UN video clip of UN General Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar stating that AIDS "is a global challenge" which goes beyond "political and economic ideology." After the 5-minute video clip, Rivero asks the director of the National Center for Health Education how the AIDS situation has been dealt with in Cuba.

The first speaker says that programs have been established by the Ministry of Public Health since the latter part of 1985. She adds that the plan consists of four fundamental aspects and that the "first one is to know or determine the extent of the virus' transmission. Initially, this was done with a risk group. I think we should clarify that risk group refers to a group of people who have had the most possibility of being in contact with the AIDS virus." The speaker then adds that the second measure taken by the Ministry of Public Health is to screen the blood donations given by the population and that the third measure is education. She says she believes this to be a very important measure because "over 97 percent of the AIDS cases in Cuba are a result of sexual relations." Finally, says the first speaker, the fourth measure taken is that special attention is given to those infected with the disease.

Rivero asks the first speaker if there are any figures on AIDS she could share with the home audience. The speaker obliges by saying: "Up to now, there are 294 people who test zero-positive. This includes 61 sick and 14 dead. Also, of these 294 cases, 214 are men and 80 are women. This is significant because it was initially believed that this disease was characteristic of homosexuals because it is where the disease was initially diagnosed in the United States, in a group of homosexuals, but later we saw that this is not the case." She adds, "of the 214 men, 33 percent are homosexual or bisexual."

Rivero then states that "over 4 million people in Cuba have been tested" for AIDS and the first speaker says that that is correct. The second speaker then comes in and states that "AIDS is a contagious disease and a fatal one" and adds that "the way to avoid it is to have a responsible sexual attitude." The second speaker says that to have a responsible sexual attitude is basically to know your partner well. The first speaker cuts in and agrees and adds that "those who test zero-positive, and are not sick, are in a condition to transmit the disease. "The people who test positive," adds the first speaker, "are in a health institute that looks after them and makes sure they are well and receive special attention."

She continues by stating that the problem in spreading AIDS is that many infected people have had relations with others and inadvertently exposed their partners to the disease. Rivero then asks what is the status of the disease spreading through Cuba, to which the first speaker answers that "the circulation of the disease is much less ... as a result of all the measures taken by the state."

At this point, Rivero presents a 5-minute film clip of an AIDS conference held in Brazil. During the film clip, the narrator discusses AIDS in the rest of Latin America.

After the film clip, the second speaker begins by discussing the importance of knowing your sexual partner and that AIDS can be prevented via education. She adds that there is nothing sadder than to die from a disease that can be avoided. She also adds that they "interviewed some young people who could not even remember their partner's name." She stresses that "AIDS is a fatal disease."

An unidentified third speaker then joins the conversation by stating that the Ministry of Education agrees with various studies which state that sexual activity has been immature and that young people need to be informed about AIDS. The third speaker adds that sexual partners should be faithful to their partners and thus avoiding the spread of the disease.

In Havana, says the third speaker, family education schools have been established in an experimental form. In these schools, she says, parents get together with their children and discuss AIDS and sexuality. The third speaker also states that at these meetings, the staff shows films and brings in guest lecturers. At this point, the program cuts to another 5-minute film clip in which speakers from the immunology center are heard giving a presentation on venereal diseases, including gonorhea and syphilis. The speaker in the film clip says that Cubans returning from AIDS ridden areas, or those people doctors suspect of having AIDS, are tested for the disease.

The first speaker cuts in after the film clip ends and says that the average age for AIDS patients is 26. Most women are 25 years old while most men are 27 years old, she says. The second speaker then comes in and states that many young people believe sex and love to be synonymous, but that this is not true. First, says the second speaker, they should get to know one another and then they have the right to have sexual relations. "Remember," she adds, "nobody has a sign on their forehead that says: I have AIDS."

After the second speaker finishes, Rivero announces that time has run out. He thanks his guest for being on the program and he thanks the audience for watching the program.

Status of Telephone Plant Under Repair Noted

FL1605131889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The installation of the new telephone plant that will replace the operations of the one destroyed by a fire last November should be completed between March and April of 1990. These images were recorded precisely 6 months ago and show the conditions in which the communications equipment, located on the third floor of the Aguila and Dragones enterprise, were left. [Video shows interior of destroyed telephone plant.]

Because of its poor condition, it was necessary to repair the building in order to install the ironwork. The equipment is being installed by a group of workers of the Construction Ministry's construction and installation enterprise and Havana's telephone enterprise. The exterior plant is being repaired in Havana's Centro Habana and Habana Vieja Municipalities. The interior connections in the homes need to be recovered. To do this, 20 km of new cables are being installed, 50 replaced, and maintenance will be given to 80.

When the general installation of the plant is completed, 200 km of cables should be ready for the new technology. A project of this magnitude would have required 3 years but this work collective is performing its tasks with a contingent spirit and intends to provide services to the first 9,000 subscribers and state offices in the first quarter of 1990.

Man Sentenced to 8 Years for Theft, Stabbing

FL1205203089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2327 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Ricardo Rivas Castanas, unemployed and a resident of 2610 97th Street between 26th and 26th-A in Las Brisas section of Cotorro Municipality, has been sentenced to 8 years of deprivation of freedom for stealing a record player and stabbing its owner. The criminal branch of the court, section three of the provincial people's court in Havana City, handed down the sentence after the prosecutor's charges were confirmed against this criminal who, abusing his friendship with the victim, tried to deceive him by asking to borrow the record player for only a few minutes. According to our reporter, Richard Clinton Leonard, the victim agreed to lend the record player without suspecting that moments later Ricardo Rivas would run off with it.

When the victim caught up with Rivas two blocks away, the thief took out his knife and stabbed him three times.

Friends, there is no way that an incident such as the one described during the oral proceedings can be treated with any kind of benevolence. This was supported by Lic Jose Luis Rivas Alvelo, the prosecutor handling the case. He added: How can an unemployed citizen with a terrible record in terms of his social behavior and who has taken to the easy life not only try to rob someone he knows but, not satisfied with his despicable conduct, also endanger the person's life? For repugnant deeds such as the one committed by the accused, the law must act with a strong and forceful hand.

Taxi Driver Arrested for Illegal Activities

FL1505141089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1305 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Combatants of the National Revolutionary Police have captured and arrested citizen Orlando Diaz Quintana, taxi driver from El Cotorro's 152 stand, who was conducting illegal activities in his job. Diaz Quintana, called "El Brujero," used two taxi meters for his operations. He used them alternately and took part of the money he collected. [Video shows man inside a car.] Diaz Quintana also used a cut taximeter coil so that the meter would not work and he forged registration cards. Three taxi signs that allowed him to turn into a taxi from a stand, roving taxi, or fixed-route taxi at his convenience, were also seized.

His former colleagues and other workers and students from El Cotorro expressed their repudiation to this citizen's negative attitude. The tribunals sentenced citizen Diaz Quintana to 3 months of deprivation of freedom and the Havana taxi enterprise directorate decided to permanently remove him from his job.

Caricom

Community Urged To Discuss Labor Issues

FL1205195389 Bridgetown CANA in English 1420 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Nassau, the Bahamas, May 12, CANA—The Bahamas has urged Caribbean Community (Caricom) labour ministers to try to achieve something concrete from talks continuing here today. Substance, not empty rhetoric, must be the signal that the ministers send out at the end of the meeting, the Bahamas minister of employment and immigration, Alfred T. Maycock said. The meeting is being held at the Cable Beach Riviera Towers.

Maycock told his audience that the present generation of the Caribbean men has very little tollerance for "mouths stuffed full of high sounding words and grand, glutinous phrases that stick to our teeth." Ministers of labour, said Maycock, are assembled here to continue the pursuit of improved livelihood for their peoples.

"In this pursuit we are reminded that we are a kind of enclave of unique manufacturers for we manufacture a kind of technological amazement in the conversion of the raw material of humanity—a strange and rare material but it is a thinking material," he said. "It is a material unlike all others. Unlike other mammals it has high expectations and if we are to become the manufacturers of that material we have to convert the reality of those expectations into tangible, achievable and pragmatic goals. Ours is not the luxury of conversion to abstract, theoretical truisms because reality is our agitator and for us success is neither a scientific absolute nor is it complete. Success for us, because we deal in human beings, is relative and is open-ended. For as long a mankind exists, neither he nor she will ever be completely satisfied," said Minister Maycock.

Ministers Agree on Fewer Barriers

FL1505174089 Bridgetown CANA in English 2220 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, May 13, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) labour ministers, meeting here, have agreed there will be fewer barriers to the exchange of labour within the community. Delegates said the ministers decided to promote and facilitate labour mobility within the community in order to achieve a better balance between the supply and demand for labour within the region. The meeting consensus was that "although our dialects are different, our problems are the same," a spokesman reported.

Among other significant disclosures was the fact that the Netherlands Antilles now has permanent observer status on Caricom's Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for labour.

The ministers considered several papers and presentations on economic development issues within the region. A paper entitled "Caribben Development to the Year 2000: Challenges, Propects and Policies" was a special interest.

The four days of deliberations by the ministers and labour ministry officials were, for the most part, held behind closed doors. The Bahamas minister of employment and immigration, Alfred T. Maycock, who is chairman of the committee until 1991 when the honour passes to Montserrat, told the press that the meeting "accomplished a few interesting things." Maycock said the meeting took decisions on matters that "have been outstanding for a little while, and we are pleased at the kind of cooperation and harmony," displayed during the talks.

Several measures and initiatives through which the region can deal with projected high increases in the labour force were considered, and the meeting also discussed arrangements for more effective Caribbean participation in International Labour Organization (ILO) meetings—especially its forthcoming conference in June, 1989.

According to a statement issued by the Caricom secretariat, a proposed programme of cooperation in industrial relations and labour administration will give priority attention to three labour-related areas:

—the improvement of labour legislation

—the consolidation of social security and

—the promotion of occupational health and safety.

In relation to occupational health and safety, Maycock said, the ministers were high in their praise of Guyana, a country which has recently introduced a diploma programme in occupational health and safety. Since this is the only such programme in the English-speaking Caribbean, Maycock said, it is likely to "prove beneficial" to other anglophone countries in the region.

Twelve of Caricom's 13 member states, four observer states and four organizations attended the meeting.

Trinidad's Basdeo on Haiti's Use of Caricom

FL1505173189 Bridgetown CANA in English 1628 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 14, CANA—Caribbean Community Countries [Caricom] are not satisfied that Haiti has made adequate use of the opportunities available to it through its observer status within the organisation, Trinidad and Tobago's External Affairs Minister Dr Sahadeo Basdeo said.

Basdeo, who returned from the meeting of Caricom foreign ministers in Castries last week, said that while this view was not a repudiation of Haiti, "the fact of the matter is that we have granted observer status to Haiti, which in a way is a clear manifestation of our interest to pull Haiti closer to the Caricom fraternity but yet even though we have granted that kind of status Haiti has not yet participated as it should." He acknowledged, however, that there were reasons for the lack of participation, including the political upheavals in that country within recent times. He said the ministers hoped the "deepening process" would take place over time and then the question of widening Caricom to include Haiti would be looked at.

The ministers also agreed last week to Haiti to become a member of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries but were still reluctant to move on allowing the Dominican Republic into that body. That reluctance to allow the Dominican Republic to enjoy the benefits of any successor arrangement to Lome 3, was based mainly on certain fears by Caricom member-countries that the funding available for many projects and programmes may be reduced, he said.

He added that this apprehension had been "taken care of" by representatives of the European Economic Commission [EEC]. Basdeo said there was the further problem, however, of a seemingly deliberate campaign being waged in Europe by certain parties who were not in support of "the Dominican Republic entree into this multi-lateral arrangement for reasons that have a European justification. In other words European politics is at play here where certain countries in the Community feel that if the Dominican Republic is given access to the successor arrangement then the question that will arise is where do you stop, if you go into Latin America," he added. Basdeo said the Haitian entry had been settled because that country had been seeking attention on the matter longer than the Dominican Republic, which was a country that was virtually dispossessed, and there was a feeling of empathy and sympathy for the Haitians.

Barbados

Sandiford Urges Panama To Respect Elections

FL1205232089 Bridgetown CANA in English 2232 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 12, CANA—Barbados this evening became the second Caribbean Community country to take the Noriega administration to task over the conduct of general elections in Panama last Sunday.

Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford said the wishes of the people had been frustrated by "grave irregularities and fraudulent practices."

"Those elections have now been declared null and void," he said in a statement.

Jamaica said Thursday night the disputed elections amounted to a betrayal of the "democratic rights and aspirations of the Panmanian people."

Sandiford said a serious blow had been dealt to the hopes of the democratic forces both in Panama and in the hemisphere for the establishment of "authentic democratic governments on the basis of genuine, fair and free elections in every country of the hemisphere."

"As prime minister of Barbados, and on behalf of the Government and people of Barbados, I call upon the Government of Panama to take all steps to prevent further violence, bloodshed and loss of life, while at the same time respecting the human, civil, and political liberties of the Panamian people," he added.

The Barbadian leader said, "In the spirit of regional solidarity, I further call upon the Government of Panama to ensure, safeguard, and respect the authenticity of the electoral process and thereby secure the sovereign right of the Panamanian people to determine their own destiny."

Panama has denied Washington's allegation that military leader General Manuel Antonio Noreiga rigged the elections to favour his supporters and has strongly criticised attacks on opposition leaders in post-election protests.

Prime Minister Announces Minor Cabinet Reshuffle

FL1205032489 Bridgetown CANA in English 2348 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 11, CANA—Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford has announced a minor reshuffle of his cabinet. He has shifted around two junior ministers in his Finance Ministry which is reunited with the portfolio of economic affairs. The changes take effect on Monday, May 15th.

Sandiford took over the job of the minister of the civil service and reassigned minister of state for the civil service, Senator Harcourt Lewis to responsibility for special projects in the office of the prime minister.

Current minister of state on the prime minister's office, Senator Carl Clarke will be transferred to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs as minister of state.

Parliamentary secretary in the prime minister's office, Clifton Neblett, will be transferred to the Ministry of the Civil Service, while parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Employment, Mazie Barker-Welsh, will be reassigned to the Ministry of Education.

Opposition Welcomes Changes

FL1205220489 Bridgetown CANA in English 2151 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 12, CANA—Barbados two parliamentary opposition parties on Friday welcomed the reassigning of the man responsible for civil service affairs, Senator Harcourt Lewis.

Lewis, minister of state for the civil service, is taking over responsibility for special projects in the office of the prime minister from Monday.

Opposition leader, Dr Richie Haynes, who heads the National Democratic Party, said Lewis should have been sacked.

Barbados Labour Party leader, Henry Forde, said the damage had already been done to the civil service.

Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford on Thursday announced he was shifting around two junior ministers in his finance ministry, which is reunited with the portfolio of economic affairs, and taking over the job of minister of the civil service.

Opposition leaders here see Lewis' switch as a signal that Prime Minister Sandiford is dissatisfied with his performance, but the prime minister gave no indication about his feelings.

Dominican Republic

3 Men Arrested for Bombing Spree in Capital

FL1205121889 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Dominican authorities have captured three members of a group thought responsible for a series of recent bombings in Santo Domingo. Six bombs have exploded in the Dominican capital over the last week, killing a small child and wounding 14 others. The men are members of a previously unknown Popular Liberation Resistance Force and one of them told police he had been trained in Libya. The group was also thought to have been involved in a bank robbery last September.

* PRD's Pena Reveals Agreement With Majluta

32480116a Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 26 Mar 89 p 9-B

[Article by Domingo Saint-Hilaire]

[Text] Santiago—Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, presidential candidate for the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), has revealed that an agreement exists between him and Jacobo Majluta stipulating that whichever of the two wins the convention for the Conservative Party will have the unconditional support of the other.

"I am confident that Majluta is playing fair, aware that the PRD has to be united if it truly wants to be successful in the 1990 elections."

"What we need to do is to defeat President Balaguer," stressed Pena Gomez, speaking at a press conference at the Matum Hotel.

Pena Gomez expressed harsh criticism of the government's economic policy, calling it a disaster since it has ruined small producers.

He also criticized the price hikes on basic consumer goods.

He said that the Balaguer Administration has neglected important areas such as electric power, education, health, sports and others.

The former labor leader from Santo Domingo called his 2-day visit to the region a success and said that the PRD could easily regain power "because we are unquestionably a party of strength."

Pena Gomez said it was horrifying that the Jose Maria Cabral University Regional Hospital could go without oxygen for 6 months and that it does not even now have the necessary ambulances.

He nevertheless stressed the work now being done by Dr Nancy Betances, director of Cabral y Baez, who has done her utmost to improve that regional center.

* Private Banks Report 1988 Earnings

32480116b Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 20 Mar 89 p 13-D

[Article by Jose Romero]

[Text] The two largest private banks in the system, People's and Commercial, reported at separate annual shareholder assemblies yesterday that 1988 was a good year for business and the consolidation of their respective operations.

The two reports, presented by Jose Urena, president of the Commercial Bank, and Pedro Rodriguez, for the People's Bank, observed, however, that the two entities had to overcome a relatively unfavorable environment, including inflation, relative stagnation, energy problems, fiscal and monetary controls and the lack of incentives for investment.

Speaking at the assembly held at the Jaragua Hotel, Urena said in his report that "the year 1988 helped the oldest enterprises" (of the overall consortium) to continue growing stronger on the markets in which they are active and, at the same time, the newer companies to enjoy significant progress in their respective takeoffs and startups, as in the case of the Commercial Agricultural Bank, El Prado Grand Hotel and the Gulf Publishing Company.

He said that total assets before the consolidation of the enterprises amounted to 2.493 billion pesos, an increase of 63 percent.

According to the breakdown, the final result of the enterprises in the amount of assets and growth achieved is as follows: Commercial Bank (1.764 billion pesos and an increase of 49 percent); Development Bank (85.6 million and an increase of 67.3 percent); Mortgage Bank (112.2 million pesos); Insurance (21 million); and Financial (89.1 million and an increase of 69.4 percent).

The consortium also includes the Data Center, Leasing Bancomercio, Mercury Advertising, Cibao Transport and Services and the Real Estate Development Company.

People's Bank Report

For its part, the People's Bank, according to the report given by Rodriguez, increased its assets by 67 percent, going from 956.7 million pesos to 1.601 billion from 1987 to 1988.

He said that the People's Bank "enjoyed great growth and that it was in fact the Dominican bank with the biggest increase in the area of total assets last year."

In deposits, he said that the bank had another extraordinary year, "being one of those enjoying the greatest growth and ranking first among the nation's private banks." He said that total deposits went from $784.4 million to $1.304 billion pesos, a 66-percent increase.

Regarding the loan portfolio, he reported that growth was also satisfactory and that the bank ranked first among the nation's private banks. The total rose from $472.6 million to $732.4 million pesos, an increase of 55 percent. The bank also diversified to other areas, in accordance with the guidelines set forth by monetary authorities.

* Falconbridge's 1988-89 Earnings Reported

32480116d Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 29 Mar 89 p 1-D

[Text] Falconbridge has reported that 1988 was a year of noteworthy recovery, with the improvement in world nickel prices having a substantial impact on results.

A note from the enterprise appearing in its official bulletin states the following:

Falconbridge closed out the year 1988 with accumulated earnings of $88.4 million, having paid $86.4 million to the Dominican Government for taxes and charges set forth in the Amendment Agreement.

In 1988, the company produced 64,693,162 pounds of nickel and exports of nickel totaled 71,379,098 pounds, which considerably reduced the inventory existing at the beginning of the year.

The year 1989 began with earnings amounting to $9.5 million for the month of January. During that same month, $7.1 million in taxes were paid to the Dominican Government.

Production for the month of January 1989 totaled 6,302,262 pounds of nickel and exports during that same period amounted to 4,915,588 pounds of nickel.

The graph [not reproduced] shows the improvement in nickel prices on the London metal market since the months of October and November, exceeding $8 a pound in January.

Values shown on the graph do not reflect real sales prices, but can be interpreted as indicators of the market situation.

* Food Prices Continue To Escalate

32480116e Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 19 Mar 89 p 2-D

[Article by Arsenio Ramirez]

[Text] Prices for farm products remain high on Santo Domingo markets, while certain produce items have dropped in price.

At the same time, fruit is out of reach for most low-income groups. A small pomegranate costs 6 to 7 pesos.

Although the price of bananas showed signs of dropping recently, it went back up to 35 or 40 centavos each on the market. Those known as barahoneros cost 55 to 60 centavos.

A pound of yams costs 1.5 pesos, white yautia 1.25 pesos, yucca 75 to 80 centavos and sweet potatos 70 centavos. A pound of yellow yautia costs 2.75 pesos.

At the Villa Consuelo market, a pound of sweet potatoes costs 80 centavos, yucca 85, yams 1.75 pesos and 16 ounces of mapuey [a type of vegetable] 3.5 pesos.

A medium-size banana costs from 70 to 80 centavos, while the large size costs 85 centavos.

A pound of potatoes costs 1.8 pesos, red onions 3 pesos and the white 1 peso. Eggplant costs 45 to 50 centavos each, while a large tayota [a type of vegetable] costs 60 centavos.

Vegetables whose prices have dropped include carrots, salad and barcelo tomatoes, beets and head lettuce.

A pound of carrots costs 1 peso, tomatoes 1.25, 16 ounces of barcelo tomatoes 80 centavos, beets 90 centavos and head lettuce 1 peso.

Prices for Other Products

A pound of kidney beans costs from 3.5 to 4 pesos. Black beans cost 3, while the price of a pound of codfish is between 10 and 10.5 pesos.

A pound of garlic costs from 13 to 14 pesos on Santo Domingo markets and a small glass of green guandules costs 1 peso.

A visit to the market revealed that the supply of green guandules [a type of pea] is greater this week than last.

At the Duarte market, 100 juice oranges cost 25 to 27 pesos, melons from 1 to 1.25 pesos and pineapples 1.5 pesos each.

A small can of sour lemons costs 7 to 8 pesos, compared with 3.5 pesos 2 weeks ago.

Meat

A pound of beef costs 8.5 pesos, pork 6.5, goat 9 and cow's feet between 6 and 8 pesos.

The price of a pound of chicken is now 4.1 pesos, while a pound of beef liver sells for 7 pesos.

Butchershops operating in different barrios of Santo Domingo sell beef for 9 pesos a pound and pork for 7 pesos.

Table of Prices

Item	Price
Bananas (medium)	35 and 40 centavos
Red onions	3 pesos
Sugar	60 centavos
Yucca	75 centavos
Garlic	13 pesos
White yautia	1.25 pesos
Potatoes	1.7 pesos
Sweet potatoes	70 and 80 centavos
Salad tomatoes	1 peso
Beef	8.5 pesos
Pork	6.5 pesos

Haiti

Press Review of Elections, U.S. Role

FL1605181089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 15 May 89

[Press review]

[Text] What do the periodicals say? Well, most of this weekend's periodicals discuss, principally, elections and the climate of insecurity.

The periodical from Fontamara [a subsection of the Carrefour section of Port-au-Prince] devotes its editorial to U.S. Ambassador to Haiti Brunson McKinley, whose tour is coming to an end, as well as to U.S. policy in Haiti.

The editorial, in discussing the visit that the U.S. ambassador paid the third Electoral Council [reference to current Electoral Council, which is the third council that has been established in recent history to organize elections in Haiti] last week, states: The United States wants to put its candidate in power. The U.S. ambassador in Port-au-Prince is responsible for the paralysis of democracy in Haiti because, for him, democracy means doing what he wants.

LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR says the United States is playing a game of (?beat around the bush) with Haiti's leaders, who for their part, never get around to denouncing the Americans with a view to reestablishing a certain equilibrium.

The author of the editorial, Yves Germain Joseph, feels that the great interest the U.S. Embassy is showing in the third CEP [Provisional/Permanent Electoral Council] is not harmless. According to Joseph, if Namphy had thrown out the U.S. ambassador, the November 1987 elections would have gone off without any problems.

LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR adds that the string the United States is pulling is the business of money. LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR expresses the hope that the government will organize the elections with Haiti's own money.

In another article, LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR wonders if the current members of the CEP will be wise enough to not follow, and we quote, the bad example set by the members of the first CEP. According to LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR, the only thing that should serve as a guide for the Electoral Council is the nation's unity, so that Haiti will be spared foreign intervention.

JOURNAL DU COMMERCE discusses the economy, politics, and paralysis. The truth of the matter is that the country is blocked. This is the reality, a reality which is always blamed on many different things but (?for) which (?politics is solely responsible). This is how JOURNAL DU COMMERCE sees the Haitian situation.

In addition to a discussion of a number of economic matters, such as the fact that the price of Hasco's [Haytian-American Sugar Company] sugar has risen to $27, JOURNAL DU COMMERCE devotes a good number of pages to a letter U.S. Representative Walter Fauntroy wrote President George Bush on the case of Haiti.

Under the title "The Little Note That Has All of Port-au-Prince Running Every Which Way," JOURNAL DU COMMERCE discusses the contents of the letter in question, which names several bigshots in business circles and dyed-in-the-wool Duvalierists who according to Walter Fauntroy are against the progress of democracy in Haiti.

People who follow political events in Haiti have noticed for some time now that insecurity and assassinations go hand in hand with changes in the government and elections. Assassinations are increasing, and there is more talk of elections.

HAITI-PROGRES says that while the government is disseminating propaganda on elections very discreetly and halfheartedly, with a view to getting the sympathies of the U.S. Government, the assassinations are continuing. The Red diaspora paper wonders why the Avril government is opposing the vigilance brigades.

According to HAITI-PROGRES, the representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor in Port-au-Prince officially justified arbitrariness in the statement he made on the case of 23 Cite Soleil vigilance brigade members who have been in jail since 26 April.

HAITI-PROGRES this week once again broaches the subject of elections. It talks about Hubert de Ronceray, Marc Bazin, Jean-Claude Roy, and the macoutes.

According to HAITI-PROGRES, De Ronceray is employing his knowledge of sociology to attempt to absolve the macoute sector of responsibility for the acts of murder.

For his part, Marc Bazin has turned into an innocent, so to speak, and claims he is not aware of a climate of insecurity, asking that elections be held before the end of the year.

HAITI-PROGRES quotes Jean-Claude Roy—whom it describes as someone who truly believes in elections, who has written that elections are not possible under the present conditions—to explain that no one believes in elections. Everyone is afraid there will be another 29 November, especially when they see the macoutes warming up, so to speak, for the elections. According to HAITI-PROGRES, the macoutes even more than before do not want to be shunted aside, and they are (?going to) force the bourgeoise sector to accept a general reconciliation.

The people who read HAITI EN MARCHE this week are going to be disappointed. There is no valid development of the paper's sensational headlines.

HAITI EN MARCHE says the Leopards Corps has been destroyed but adds no information to what Haitian word-of-mouth has been saying for some time now.

The paper says the palace soldiers have become more powerful and that they represent a threat to Avril himself, but fails to provide an analysis of the situation.

It talks more about the Dessalines Barracks spokesman during the military rebellion, Lieutenant Michel Guy Philippe. The paper says that Lt Philippe, who served as spokesman for the Dessalines Barracks and Leopard Corps over Radio Metropole, and who also headed the squad that occupied Radio Soleil last 7 April, has reportedly secretly fled to the Dominican Republic.

The information HAITI EN MARCHE publishes on the Michel Louis case shows (?the case) is connected with former Haitian President Leslie Francois Manigat. [sentence as heard]

Regarding elections, HAITI EN MARCHE has the impression that the candidates recognized as the Americans' candidates are racing against time. Quoting a well-documented article published by the U.S. paper CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, the Miami Haitian paper writes: Fewer people will participate in the elections than participated in the January 1988 elections, but with one difference. These elections will have the full support of the big countries.

HAITI EN MARCHE brings up the dilemma of the application of Article 291 of the Constitution and the mobilization of the Duvalierists against the application of this article. In connection with this matter, the paper writes: Jean-Claude Duvalier has already placed an order for a $10,000 interview with a Haitian weekly.

UCH's Roy Cautions Against Early Elections

FL1605145589 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 15 May 89

[Excerpt] Jean-Claude Roy is opposed to elections being held very soon. The official of the Union of Haitian Constitutionalists [UCH] is calling on those in favor of elections very soon to be reasonable. Mr Roy admits that there must be obligatory elections in order to arrive at democracy. He also believes that elections must be interpreted in a much more profound manner. In this connection, he highlights the difference between elections and an electoral farce.

Roy feels that the current climate, tainted as it is with insecurity, is not propitious for holding credible elections. The UCH official describes as irresponsible the call for elections before the end of 1989 made by certain party leaders, among them Marc L. Bazin and Hubert de Ronceray. Roy would like to see the voters recover their confidence before elections are held.

Roy says the solution to the current crisis lies in the formation of a credible transitional government on the basis of some program. This was recommended at the national forum last February.

Jean-Claude Roy thinks it would be advisable to return to a government council. General Avril's task within such a government would be to reorganize the Army, which was seriously shaken by April's events. The economy and the nation's politics would be directed by civilians designated by the different sectors of the political class at a new forum.

He continues to think that the path to salvation lies in power-sharing. [passage omitted]

Unions Fail To Support Strike Called for 16 May

FL1605162189 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 16 May 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Many important unions in Haiti did not support the call to a general strike made by several Haitian people's organizations during a news conference held yesterday morning at KID [Confederation for Democratic Unity] headquarters on the Rue Champ de Mars. The strike has not been respected in the capital.

All activities are normal. Public transportation vehicles and everyone else are going about their business normally. Thus, everything is normal. Port-au-Prince does not appear to be having a strike at all, contrary to what has been noted during other past strikes. [passage omitted]

Court Break-Ins Prompt Concern for Dossiers

FL1605203089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 16 May 89

[Excerpts] Thieves visited the law courts last week. Specifically, they broke into the office of the president of the Court of Cassation. It seems they also went through the office of the examining (?magistrates). It looks as if what the burglars are interested in are the dossiers kept at the Law Courts.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] They came into the section that houses the office of the court president. They broke down the door and entered. They went to his office and forced open the door. [passage omitted] They went to an armoire where they thought there might be dossiers. Luckily he hadn't put any dossiers there. Another place where we have many dossiers is the secretariat of the court's record office. Luckily, they didn't go there. We became the target of thieves and bandits after [word indistinct] February.

[Reporter] You mean this isn't the first time they have broken into the Law Courts?

[Speaker] No. On 25 February they broke in during the day. A group came in and destroyed everything it found. Luckily, the dossiers were under lock and key, and the people were unable to get at them. Then they came again, to the secretariat of the court record office. They broke down the door and stole an Olivetti typewriter.

We reported this to the Ministry of Justice, and asked them to give a special police (?watch) to the Court of Cassation, which we noticed had become a target for these thieves. As you know, all the trials that are appealed end up at the Court of Cassation. Certain parties might see that they are not going to win. They might be seeking a way to get hold of those dossiers, because if they do get hold of the dossiers, things will be a bit difficult. As you know, the procedure for the Court of Cassation is a written procedure. Well, it appears that all the attacks by these people are not so much for money, because they know people don't have money in their offices. They are probably after dossiers. We fear most for the dossiers. [passage omitted]

Well, what measure can we take? All we can do is ask them to send police guards. They did send one, but they sent a single soldier for the entire Law Court. However, we ourselves would like a police guard posted in front of the secretariat of the Court of Cassation, because we know that all the people in these break-ins are after dossiers, not money. [passage omitted] Luckily, the last time they did not go to the secretariat of the court record office. We are thankful for that. [end recording]

We remind listeners that a number of important dossiers, in which the Haitian people are demanding justice, have been sent to the Justice Department since 7 February 1986. Certain observers point out that as long as the cases have not been ruled on, the citizens affected can still make demands and demand explanations. However, if the dossiers disappear [1-minute break in transmission]. [passage omitted]

However, if these dossiers disappear, there will be no proof, and the court will have to declare that it cannot condemn anybody because it has no proof. Observers also point out that historically in Haiti certain methods have always been used by the people with the power to do and undo to avoid having to account to the population for the acts they have committed: stealing the dossiers or setting fire to them.

Capital 'Disturbed'; Other Cities Normal

FL1605211589

[Editorial Report] Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French at 1600 GMT on 16 May reports that activities in Port-au-Prince have been "slightly disturbed" as a result of the strike called by popular organizations for today, 16 May, all over Haiti. According to the radio, the "slowdown" of activities is most evident in public transportation, schools, and stores, several of which did not open. Metropole's mobile unit adds that it saw barricades on fire at the corner of Avenue Magloire and Route des Dalles and at Rue Monsignor Guilloux and Route des Dalles, along with "a few" National Palace soldiers at the former place.

In another report in the same newscast, Radio Metropole cites its Jeremie correspondent as saying that "public offices, schools, the marketplace, and public transportation have not been affected."

Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole at 1300 GMT on 16 May also carries stories on the strike, with its Jacmel correspondent reporting that everything is functioning "normally" there, and its Hinche correspondent saying that the strike "was not respected." According to the latter, most of the people he talked to had said they did not know the purpose of the strike, would not support it, and did not know what sector the strike benefited.

Sit-In Dispersed; Gunfire Noted in Cap-Haitien

FL1605163389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 16 May 89

[Excerpts] There was a sit-in yesterday morning in front of the prefecture in Cap-Haitien at the initiative of ANOP [National Alliance of People's Organizations] North and Northeast to demand the release of the arrested members of KASS [Coordinating Body of Associations of Cite Soleil]. Our Cap-Haitien correspondent informs us that the military authorities dispersed the gathering when it began to grow.

[Correspondent James Saint-Julien] The sit-in scheduled by ANOP North and Northeast was held, although not in front of the Office of the Representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor in Cap-Haitien. Instead, it was held on the square in front of the prefecture, because according to the members of ANOP, the prefecture represents the government. [passage omitted]

At around 1220, the commander of the military district of the North, (Lener Renaud), very wisely asked that the gathering disperse, because too many slanted things were being chanted at the sit-in. [passage omitted] An ANOP member gave us a statement after the sit-in:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] [Passage omitted] Some 500 people had gathered there to demonstrate and voice our demands. [passage omitted] Unfortunately, the demonstration had to end at around noon. The captain came and told us that the gathering was not a peaceful one because we were singing and chanting slogans. He said we should have sat quietly, with our placards in hand. He forced us to disperse the demonstration.

To avoid a confrontation, we went home. However, we are calling on the entire Haitian people throughout Haiti to mobilize on tomorrow's general strike, Tuesday, May 16. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Saint-Julien] Also, since last Thursday gunfire has been heard constantly, every night, in Cap-Haitien. No one knows who is doing the shooting. We remind listeners that in a 12 May press release from the general headquarters of the police district of Cap-Haitien, the police invited the population to remain calm, saying that it was the police's mission to protect the lives and property of all.

This is James Saint-Julien, Radio Soleil, Cap-Haitien.

Thieves Steal 3,000 Gallons of Gasoline Unhindered

FL1605165289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 15 May 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We remind listeners that there have been many crimes committed by armed robbers these last few days in Port-au-Prince. Market Saint-Pierre in Petion-Ville and Art de Paris [flower shop] were robbed. There have been holdups at Bo-K-Do shop and the Joe Etienne shop. We have also learned that several private homes in the heart of Port-au-Prince have also been broken into these last few days.

One of the most spectacular criminal acts was in south Port-au-Prince, along the road south, where the thieves leisurely siphoned off 3,000 gallons of gasoline. The robbers came with their own tanks, and were able to operate with ease.

Thus, with great composure, thieves siphoned off 3,000 gallons of gasoline, and no one was able to intimidate them or prevent them from committing this act of banditry.

Jamaica

Manley Leaves for Official Overseas Visits

FL1205131089 Bridgetown CANA in English 1939 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 11, CANA—Jamaica prime minister, Michael Manley, leaves here today for a visit to Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela, it was officially announced.

Manley will be accompanied by his foreign minister, David Coore, and they will be joined on the Venezuela leg of the trip by mining and energy minister, Hugh Small, a government statement said.

On Firday, the Jamaican prime minister will address a meeting in Trinidad of the advisory committee for the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development (CGCED)—the World Bank group that coordinates economic assistance to the region. The meeting is coinciding with the annual conference of the Caribbean Development Bank.

Manley is to meet with Jamaican nationals in Trinidad and Tobago and is likely to have informal talks with the Trinidad and Tobago prime minister, A.N.R. Robinson and St Lucia's leader, John Compton, before leaving for Venezuela on Sunday. He is to have talks with the Venezuelan president, Carlos Andres Perez, on a wide range of bilateral issues, the government statement said.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Panama

FL1105215289 Bridgetown CANA in English 1720 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 11, CANA—Jamaica called for respect of the peoples choice in Panama's presidential election, but Wednesday night's Foreign Ministry statement came before the Michael Manley administration had news of the annulment of Sunday's vote by the Panamanian authorities.

Foreign ministry officials were not immediately available for comment on the latest development, but government sources say that the matter was likely to be discussed later in the day by Manley and his foreign minister, David Coore, while flying to Trinidad and Tobago.

In its Wednesday night statement Jamaica did not specifically join those accusing military leader Manuel Noriega of rigging the poll in favour of his candidate, and it called for a "peaceful solution" to a "confused" situation. But analysts here said the tone of the statement indicated some measure of censure of Noriega. "We are unalterably committed to the selection of governments by the democratic process through free and fair elections," the statement said, adding that the Panamanian people must be free to choose their government by such means. "Their choice must be respected," the statement said. Added the statement: "We hope that this is still possible and that the final result (of the election) will reflect the true will of the Panamanian people.

"We call upon all interests involved to seek a peaceful solution to this dangerous impasse which threatens the well-being of the Panamanian people as well as the interests of our region as a whole."

Panama's Election Tribunal annulled the national poll, citing foreign interference and widespread fraud, after an international outcry over alleged vote-rigging by Noriega. The announcement on Wednesday followed violence over the election, which the opposition and foreign observers say was fraudulent.

St Christopher and Nevis

Opposition Labor Party Chooses New Leader

FL1505232689 Bridgetown CANA in English 1708 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts, May 15, CANA—The St Kitts Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP), which lost general elections here nearly two months ago, chose a new leader Sunday to succeed veteran Lee Moore, who was unsuccessful in the poll.

Moore, a lawyer who failed to win a seat in two successive elections, stepped down at the party's annual conference, with medical practitioner Dr Denzil Douglas, emerging as the new party leader. Douglas, one of only two labour party candidates to win seats in the March 21 elections, is the parliamentary leader of the opposition. Henry Browne, a former senator and an unsuccessful candidate in this years poll, retained the position of deputy leader of the SKNLP. Both men were nominated unopposed.

Moore, who was party leader for nearly ten years, said in calling it quits, that he had decided to take the advice of Caribbean calypsonian/philosopher the Mighty Sparrow "to step aside and give the youngsters a chance."

The outspoken politician, who had a short stint as premier 1979-1980, said he had held his head high, "assured in the knowledge that I sought to serve my country and countrymen, genuinely with charity to all, with malice toward none and with probity and integrity." Quoting from the popular Frank Sinatra ballad "My Way," Moore acknowledged that he may have made some mistakes during his tenure in public life. But he said that he remained unswerving in his commitment to the cause of the common people. "Labour's new parliamentarians, being young men, have a much better opportunity than the old tired men in government of establishing rapport with the youth, who will be the predominant factor on the next electoral list," he added.

He also stated that labour supporters even after the election defeat, remained positive, purposeful, vibrant and joyful, "while government on the other hand seems paralysed and demoralised and unable to get moving." He said he is confident that labour's time will come, and soon, and called on the party machinery to be ready to seize the opportunity.

One of the resolutions before the conference invited Moore to accept an appointment as advisor to the party's National Executive.

In his near hour-long address, Moore also spoke of plans by the party to commemorate the tenth anniversary next Thursday of the passing of C.A. Paul Southwell, a former labour leader and premier of St Kitts-Nevis. The activities will include a memorial service, a special issue of the party paper, THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN and a Paul Southwell memorial lecture.

St Vincent and the Grenadines

James Mitchell Wins General Elections

FL1705104189 Bridgetown CANA in English 0329 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, May 16, CANA—Prime Minister James Mitchell's New Democratic Party (NDP) scored a resounding win in Tuesday's general elections here, capturing all 15 parliamentary seats in St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Supervisor of Elections Ormond Robertson called the election even before all the figures were announced. "According to preliminary results, the ruling party has taken all 15 seats," he told CANA. He estimated the turnout at 77 per cent.

With results from several of the constituencies declared by 10:30 hours (local time), the NDP wrested even the slender three seats held by the main opposition St Vincent Labour Party (SLP) in the last 13-member parliament.

SLP leader Vincent Beache, with 1,263 votes, was the main casualty, losing his North Central Windward seat to NDP newcomer Johnathan Peters, who polled 1,395. The other two Labour Party incumbents losing their seats were Kenneth Browne (1605) in Marria Qua to the NDP's Bernard Wylie (1,935) and John Thompson, who went under to first-timer Alpian Allen.

The NDP, which campaigned on its record of improving government budget deficits and achieving real growth despite unpredictable setbacks, held nine seats in the last parliament.

A total of 34 candidates from four parties contested the election. A spokesman for the victorious Mitchell said from his Bequia constituency that he was not expected to speak to the press before Wednesday when he returns to mainland St Vincent.

Minister of education in the last administration, John Horne who won his West Kingstown seat by a 1,500 vote margin, said the three-party opposition had itself to blame for failing to win a single seat. "The opposition performed badly and disappointed the people," he said. He attributed the lower turnout—it was 88.1 per cent in 1984—to complacency on the part of the electorate, who "in the last days of the campaign conceived the landslide (NDP win) as inevitable."

Horne said the NDP would work to "keep the economy buoyant" and push agricultural diversification in the 150 square-mile island, whose chief agricultural crop is bananas.

Mitchell, in a brief radio broadcast, declared Wednesday a public holiday to mark his NDP's win. He said the landslide leaves the NDP with a "serious responsibility which it has to St Vincent and the Grenadines."

Responding to concerns expressed about the potential ill effects of a one-party parliament, Mitchell quipped: "Don't worry. Be Happy."

Deputy chairman of the Labour Party, Rupert Bascombe, said St Vincent was now a one-party state. "I do not believe in a one-party state," he said. "It is not good in any country."

The NDP came to power in 1984, winning nine seats in the then 13-seat parliament. When former Prime Minister Milton Cato resigned from politics, the NDP took that seat.

Political Parties Report Increased Violence

FL1105173889 Bridgetown CANA in English 1835 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Kingston, St Vincent, May 10, CANA—Political parties on Wednesday reported a second attack on supporters as campaigning for the May 16 general election continued. There were stone throwing incidents in the South Leeward constituency on Tuesday. There was also a disturbance last Sunday.

The two main political parties contesting next week's general elections have accused each others supporters of being responsible. The ruling New Democratic Party's (NDP) candidate for the South Leeward constituency, Minister of Housing Jerry Scott, said his supporters were pelted with stones late Tuesday night as they returned to his home village of Camden Park from a meeting a Rillan Hill a few miles away. Scott said as the vehicles passed an area of Chauncey, people, identified as supporters of the opposition St Vincent Labour Party threw stones at them, injuring some supporters in an open jeep.

But the Labour Party's deputy leader, John Thompson told CANA that supporters of his party were stoned at Camden Park as they returned from a meeting at Barrouallie in the Central Leeward constituency. Thompson said some supporters were injured.

The accident and emergency ward of the main Kingston general hospital confirmed treating several persons for minor injuries Tuesday but said none of them was detained.

Labour Party leader Vincent Beache accused the police of deliberately staying away from last Sunday's Labour Party motorcade from the capital, Kingston, to the second town of Georgetown, 22 miles away on the north-eastern coast. Beache said at least two persons received minor injuries and the windshield of a vehicle was smashed as supporters of the NDP pelted the motorcade with bottles and stones.

Police commissioner, Randolph Toussaint who the opposition accused of being partial towards government supporters, on Wednesday repeated a call to supporters of all the parties in the election for calm.

Agreements for Land Reform Program Signed

FL1105225089 Bridgetown CANA in English 1801 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, May 11, CANA—St Vincent and the Grenadines and the World Bank have signed formal agreements in Washington for the second phase of the country's land reform programme, the planning unit has announced here.

The programme will cost EC10.8 million dollars (one EC dollar : 37 cents U.S.) with the World Bank providing EC7.6 million dollars as a soft loan and the government of St Vincent and the Grenadines contributing the balance of EC3.2 million dollars.

The agreements were signed by St Vincent and the Grenadines acting permanent representative to the United Nations, James Pompey, and the World Bank's regional vice president, Shahid Hussain.

Under this second phase of the programme, seven state-owned estates measuring 4,500 acres will be surveyed and sub-divided into three to five acre farms and distributed on a leasehold basis to about 800 Vicentian families. The farms will be provided with access roads and drainage.

The farmers who occupy them will be given assistance to obtain credit as well as with crop selection and cultivation. They will also be provided with extension services.

The land reform programme is a key conponent of the government's overall strategy to combat unemployment and raise the living standards and incomes of families in rural areas. It was introduced in 1974 by the then James Mitchell Peoples' Political Party (PPP) alliance government which bought the Lauders Estate, about 18 miles north-east of Kingstown. The then government was ousted before the land was surveyed and distributed.

The Milton Cato administration surveyed the land and allowed persons occupying various plots to pay for their portion over a period of time.

Shortly after Mitchell's New Democratic Party won the 1984 general elections here, government acquired the 3,500-acre Orange Hill Estate from a group of Danes who had bought it from the original owners, the Barnard family.

The subsequent subdivision and ongoing distribution of that estate to an expected 600 farmers from the island's north-eastern district, constitute the first phase of the land reform programme.

The programme also complements government's efforts towards the intensification and diversification of agricultural produciton.

Work has already started on the procurement of consultancy services and equipment on the five-year programme which will begin in full on July 1. Government has already signed an agreement to purchase other large estates to be used in the land reform programme.

Salinas Vows To Fight Drug Trafficking
FL1205171189 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] The president of the republic is visiting Chihuahua State tonight. President Carlos Salinas de Gortari reiterated here in Chihuahua his government's irreversible determination to use all of the state's resources to combat drug trafficking. Nevertheless, the president warned that this cancer that could affect our nation's security will only be cured if the government and society are united. In a speech to Chihuahua farmers, Salinas de Gortari said that land that has been acquired through drug profits will revert to the state to be used for the common good of all Mexicans.

Possible 'Selective Suspension of Payments' Noted
FL1305022889 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0140 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Mexico City, 12 May (NOTIMEX)—Mexican financial sources have stated that Mexico is headed toward a selective suspension of payments because of the lack of interest international banks have shown to arrange quickly the renegotiation of the foreign debt. They said the little political will of the governments of the creditor banks to absorb losses resulting from the process, the counterproposal of the banks' advisory committee, will be insufficient for Mexico's needs. The sources consulted by NOTIMEX said Mexico does not have time to withstand an economic standstill. Its social cost will be too high if an immediate solution is not found by international banks.

Next Wednesday [17 May], creditor banks will announce their stand on the proposals made by Mexico to reduce its debt and service. Likewise, they will issue a counterproposal aimed at achieving a satisfactory agreement with the Mexican Government.

Explaining the reason for a suspension of payments and not a moratorium, the sources said in the former case the Mexican authorities can ask for stopgap loans to reactivate the national economy and later pay its commitments abroad while the possibility of settling the debt is kept open.

On the other hand, they said, with a unilateral or selective moratorium the country would risk a seizure of its accounts abroad by creditors or an economic and trade blockade because we would not be worthy of credit, as it happened to Peru.

Regarding the alternative of Mexico paying the interests of its foreign debt in pesos—which is feasible as long as the international banks accept it—they said it would be counterproductive because it would cause an excessive circulation of currency and, thus, an increase in inflation. However, they added that the worst would be for the Bank of Mexico to turn into a credit institution for international companies which would damage nationalized banks that do not have the resources to invest in those industries.

Socialist Party Now Called Democratic Revolution
FL1505160089 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2142 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Mexico City, 14 May (NOTIMEX)—Today, the Mexican Socialist Party (PMS) agreed by a majority vote to change its name to Democratic Revolution Party [Partido de la Revolucion Democratica] (PRD) and accept the basic documents as well as the national leadership of the emerging political organization.

The resolution, approved by 1,079 votes in favor, 18 against, and 10 abstentions during the PMS second congress, permanently eliminates the party created in March 1987.

This also wipes out the Mexican left-wing organized in a single party which began in 1919 with the founding of the Communist Party (PC) banned several times.

The debate prior to the voting brought opposing views among party delegates. Some tore up the ballots because they felt the points in the resolution were not fully discussed.

Gilberto Rincon Gallardo, up to now the secretary general of the now extinct PMS, denied that the decision had been made because it was impossible for the PRD to register according to the requirements established by the Federal Electoral Code.

Authorities Arrest Medellin Cartel Members
PA1405170089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0038 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Leon (Mexico), 13 May (EFE)—Mexican federal agents dismantled a band of drug traffickers who were members of the "Medellin Cartel," it was reported here today by sources in the Attorney General Office.

The sources added that during the operation, carried out at a ranch near this city in Guanajuato State (central area of the country), the agents seized a small amount of cocaine, 19 powerful weapons, and 3 vehicles, and they arrested 8 Mexicans in connection with drug trafficking.

The sources added that the arrested persons had hidden in a house owned by the band's leader, Marco Antonio Torres Garcia, who was also arrested.

The sources stated that experts have reported the house to be worth approximately $403,000 and the ranch to include a clandestine landing strip.

According to the official reports, the band could be the one responsible for transporting 500 kg of cocaine from Colombia to the United States.

Pemex Reports 1st Quarter Oil Export Figures

PA1505181189 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 13 May 89 p 35

[Text] The prices Petroleos Mexicanos [Mexican Petroleum] (Pemex) received for its crude oil sold abroad went up in April, compared to March prices, Pemex reported Friday. In a press release, Pemex said its crude sold in the American continent received an average of 2.16 dollars per barrel (dpb) more in April than in March. The average price increase for Pemex crude was 1 dpb for oil exported to the Far East and 72 cents (of a dollar) per barrel for crude sold in Europe. The average price of Mexico's light Isthmus crude sold on the American continent in April was 19.69 dpb. Mexico's Maya crude sold for 16.05 dbp, and the average price of its extra light Olmeca crude was 20.62 dpb. In March, prices for Pemex' oil was 17.61 dpb for Maya, 13.51 dpb for Maya [as published] and 18.76 dpb for Olmeca, the report continued. On the European market, in the first 15 days of April, the average price of Pemex' light crude was 19.32 dpb. Heavy Maya crude received 14.85 dpb. At the end of the month, the price of Maya crude slid to 14.24 dpb and Isthmus slipped to 18.48 dpb. Last month, in the Far East, Isthmus sold for 17.70 dpb and Maya for 15.00 dpb; the March prices were 16.70 dpb and 14.00 dpb, respectively. Crude oil exports for the first quarter of 1989 averaged a volume of 317,000 barrels per day, according to Pemex. The release said Pemex' daily exports so far this year were about 388,000 barrels of Isthmus crude, 777,000 barrels of Maya and 152,000 barrels of Olmeca. In the month of April, Pemex' exports went up to 287,000 barrels per day.

ANAGSA Reports Drought Causes Heavy Losses

PA1405140789 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 9 May 89 pp 2-B, 4-B

[Summary] Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, 8 May—The National Agricultural and Livestock Insurance Company [Aseguradora Nacional Agricola y Ganadera—ANAGSA] today reported that 14,000 producers have registered losses of 26 billion pesos because of the 8-month drought that has affected 147,000 hectares in the states of Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosi, and Nuevo Leon. San Andres Azumiatla, Santa Maria Tecola, La Paz Tlaxcolpan, Santa Maria Xonacatepec, Amozoc, San Miguel Espejo, and others, are the most affected areas insured by ANAGSA, which has already compensated thousands of producers.

Business Coordinating Council on Inflation Rate

PA1505005389 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 9 May 89 pp 1-A, 28-A

[Report by Jesus Rivera Valero]

[Text] Business Coordinating Council President Agustin F. Legorreta said yesterday that the country will not lower inflation to single-digit levels this year as a result of readjustments in price increases that were deferred on some products, adjustments in public utilities rates, wage adjustments caused by the downward spiral in the exchange rate, and the higher real interest rates that banks and investment certificates are paying.

However, he denied that private investment had decreased and said that instead it is increasing and will continue to increase as uncertainty diminishes and confidence in the country's future strengthens. He spoke at the annual meeting of the Mexican Association of Insurance Companies and concluded by saying that the struggle against inflation is going well since the amount of money in circulation was cut in half. He said that within a few months, the government's deficit decreased 5 percent and the government decreased the supply of money in circulation by 10 billion pesos.

He added that the fact that inflation is not expected to decrease to single-digit levels at the present time does not mean that the struggle against price increases will be abandoned.

He said: "In fact, what we have already achieved will permit us to cut inflation by at least 50 percent in 1990. This goal is feasible if we maintain the policies of monetary and fiscal restraint—something which the government is determined to do—and if the behavior of the national and international markets does not change dramatically."

On increasing investments, he said that already established companies have been modernizing and increasing their investments, which is proven by the fact that machinery and equipment imports in the past year increased 53.2 percent while the domestic production of capital goods increased dramatically in several areas.

He specified that the production of office machinery increased 14.8 percent, agricultural machinery 38.2 percent, and office furniture 6.4 percent. He said that these companies are investing during this time of crisis because they must modernize the plants to be able to export, to face greater competition from imports, and to take advantage of relatively cheaper imported capital goods as a result of lower tariffs and the real exchange rate.

He said here: "We believe that investments will again increase because uncertainty about market conditions has diminished and confidence in the institutional framework and the country's future is increasing."

Therefore, it does not seem unrealistic to assume that starting in 1990, the national economy will see a gradually increasing growth rate that exceeds the population growth rate.

If this occurs, as we believe it will, the insurance and other industries will prosper, he said. Regarding the insurance industry, he said that it is highly probable that the economic opening already evident in foreign trade will also reach the service industry in the not too distant future.

It is true that GATT has initiated a study on liberalization in this area, but it would be absurd for us not to prepare for medium-range contingencies. The insurance industry must be prepared to be efficient at the world level when that time comes. Referring to interest rates in statements to the press, Legorreta said that these have decreased from 112 percent in 1987 to 50 percent at present in nominal terms. He explained that in 1987 they were really at the zero level and, at present, they are at approximately 30 percent.

However, interest rates must decrease still more, because 30 percent, in real terms, is still excessive. The government has established a policy to obtain more savings with cetes [not further identified] and other instruments to decrease money in circulation, but this also has a cost for the public sector. He conceded that there is an economic recession because the stabilization program is progressing slowly. However, it is the best way to decrease inflation, and, to do this, we must continue our program to prevent the flight of capital.

Bank of Mexico Reports April Inflation Rate

PA1305143989 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 10 May 89, pp 1, 35

[Report by Daniel Alder]

[Text] Monthly consumer inflation accelerated slightly in April, registering an increase of 1.5 percent, Banco de Mexico reported Tuesday.

The previous month's inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI) was 1.1 percent.

Producer prices saw larger increases than consumer prices for the second month in a row, the central bank report shows. The producer price index (PPI) registered an increase of 1.8 percent in April, compared with 1.2 percent the month before.

Banco de Mexico chalked much of April's consumer inflation to rising fruit and vegetable prices resulting from the dry season. Of the 1.5 percent rise in the CPI, .06 of a percentage point was due to the seasonal adjustment of fruit and vegetable costs, the Banco de Mexico report states.

The 12-month inflation rate continued to improve as the CPI moved out from under the influence of the dramatic price increases registered during the first months of 1988. Annual inflation for the April 1988-April 1989 period was reported by Banco de Mexico at 19.2 percent—close to the government's target figure of 18 percent for all of 1989. Annual inflation for the 12-month period ending with April of 1988 was 161.4 percent.

By category, food, beverages, and tobacco led April's CPI upward, registering an inflation rate of 2.1 percent. The housing category, which includes rent and utilities, was close behind at 1.9 percent, followed by "other services" and transportation categories, each with 1.3 percent inflation.

* UNAM Rector Discusses Autonomy Issue

32480129a Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 12 Apr 89 pp 4-A, 32-A

[Text] The UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico] rector, Dr Jose Sarukhan, declared that extraterritoriality is a distorted notion of autonomy, a principle that affords universities the opportunity to form their own government, and to determine their administrative structures, enabling them to decide how to grow and become stronger, as well as the guarantee of total freedom to analyze all currents of opinion, and ideas open to all currents of thought.

At the conclusion of the opening ceremony for the Eighth Special Meeting of ANUIES [National Association of Universities and Institutions of Higher Education] he made the foregoing remark, noting that this is fitting, and that university autonomy is not harmed by the fact that certain general guidelines are accepted as part of a general program put forth with consensus by the country's universities.

"Respect for autonomy consists of allowing each university, depending on its individual features and its requirements and history, to gear itself to those general guidelines, and I think that the two things are totally compatible."

Then, after citing the concepts that he considers as the basis of university autonomy, the UNAM rector said that this principle enables educational institutions to be open to all currents of thought without limits, giving them complete freedom to analyze opinions and ideas, as the most important elements of autonomy. And he remarked: "Other areas of this type, by now legendarily, have succumbed to things that seem to me to be somewhat pointless debates, about whether the police can enter, the fact that they are sacred territories, and things of that kind."

In response to another question concerning the relationship between a national consultation to modernize higher education and the University Congress he commented:

"The University Congress is a reflection of the National University's autonomy, wherein the institution, apart from the efforts in which the institution itself participates, has adopted for itself the mandate to analyze and review itself very carefully."

As for the academization process at UNAM, Sarukhan observed that it has already been reflected in academic life, noting that, "It is very close to being reflected in other measures, which I cannot discuss just now, but we shall announce them within about 2 weeks."

Then, regarding the union-university relationship, he expressed the view that, "There is a need to seek new, more suitable paths for relations between the union organizations and the universities. I consider it very important for these organizations to have been created. They are quite necessary to protect the workers' interests but, since there has not been any previous experience (which we now have in the relations of the liberal organizations with the very particular features of academic life), it is time to reconsider whether adjustments should be made in these relations and in the work standards, so that, without upsetting the workers' rights, there will be greater proximity between this endeavor and the universities' requirements."

Rector Sarukhan added: "I believe that this can be done. For example, at UNAM we can become closer to STUNAM [Trade Union of the National Autonomous University of Mexico], now that its transition problem has been solved, and there can be an exploration between them and us, with all due respect, of these new avenues for cooperation and joint effort that will prove more beneficial to the institution and also more stimulating to the workers themselves." And he was precise in stating that there will be no layoffs of workers.

* Alarm Expressed Over COCEI Influence

32480129b Oaxaca NOTICIAS in Spanish
14 Feb 89 p 5

[Editorial: "COCEI: A Destabilizing Force in the Isthmus"]

[Text] The secretary general of the Santo Domingo Sugar Mill CNC [National Peasant Confederation] accused COCEI [Labor, Peasant, Student Coalition of the Isthmus] of spreading unrest in the region based on pressure, threats, and mobilizations, declaring that COCEI has received overt support from the body of Isthmian region government officials, and even from top-level officials, for committing its destructive acts.

This charge made by the peasant leader is in addition to the one made a few days ago by the private enterprise leader. Both accusations agree regarding the arbitrary way in which a pressure group has been acting, doing what it wants in the Isthmus region, without anyone taking action to prevent continued damage from being inflicted on the region.

The closing of highways has become its favorite action, harming communications between our state and the neighboring state of Chiapas, as well as those that should exist among the various towns in that region. The pressure being brought to bear upon organized business, which is required to "buy security," is something obviously intolerable, because it discourages all kinds of investment in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, leaving the population without any guarantee for conducting it commercial activities.

Inexplicably, COCEI has had backing from government authorities through the regional government body existing on the Isthmus, something that is unacceptable when one considers the fact that violent acts should be repressed when they affect the community's interests or when they hurt the interests of private individuals unjustifiably. And it is also unwarranted for agrarian reform officials to have to yield to such demands out of fear of being removed.

The Isthmus of Tehuantepec is one of the regions with the greatest development potential, and it is not fair for a political group to be a deciding factor, preventing the region from raising its productivity, because it is not only business that has been intimidated, but the peasants as well, who fear COCEI's gangster-type acts, particularly those that may occur through the notorious land invasions.

It is incredible that, with the pressure used by COCEI throughout the entire Isthmus, there should be an end to appointments of ejido [Indian community-held farmlands] councils, because this means that, through pressure, it is establishing a state within the state, and that the legal codes have proven too much for it, because the freedom that has been given to it is now bordering on the most complete license, and this will cause the situation on the Isthmus to become intolerable.

Costa Rica

Foreign Minister on OAS Meeting on Panama

PA1605135489 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1225 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto has reaffirmed Costa Rica's absolute rejection of the violation of the civic and human rights of the Panamanian people, and he said this rejection must be expressed at the OAS. However, the foreign minister did not predict what the OAS might decide to do, despite the fact that every day more countries are disturbed about the incidents that have occurred in Panama.

Regarding the possibility of breaking off commercial or diplomatic relations with Panama, Madrigal Nieto said that isolated actions are not very effective and that coordinated actions are more effective.

The Latin American foreign ministers will meet at the OAS in Washington tomorrow to analyze the Panamanian situation. Madrigal Nieto said a group of foreign ministers will probably meet informally beforehand to exchange opinions and define an action plan. This action is being taken at Venezuelan initiative and is seconded by Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Guatemala in view of the fraud perpetrated by the Panamanian Government in the 7 May elections.

Special Patrols Remain on Border With Panama

PA1705020689 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0114 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Because of the difficult political situation in neighboring Panama, the Public Security Ministry has decided not to withdraw the policemen who were sent to the border region the day before the Panamanian elections. The Civil Guard reinforcements headed by Civil Guard Director Juan Felix Barrantes were sent to the border region to prevent the Panamanian conflict from spreading into our country.

The special patrols should have ended on 8 May, the day after the Panamanian elections, but in view of the continuing critical situation in Panama, the guardsmen have not returned to their bases.

Civil Guard Director Juan Felix Barrantes said he and his men will stay in the southern region as long as necessary. He believes the border region is calm, but he says the guardsmen must remain at their posts ready to handle any situation. Barrantes added that it is necessary to be alert on 17 May, the day Panama's opposition will hold a general strike. The civil guardsmen are based in the Laurel, La Cuesta, Cerritos, Paso Canoas, and Sereno areas.

El Salvador

Foreign Minister Suggests Commission on Panama

PA1605153589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1511 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Bogota, 16 May—Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta proposed a short time ago in Bogota that a commission of Latin American foreign ministers should be formed to talk with FDP [Panama Defense Forces] General Manuel Antonio Noriega about a possible peaceful solution to the Panamanian problem. Acevedo Peralta, who arrived in Colombia on an official visit, also expressed the need for the OAS to "take a harsh and vigorous position against the Panamanian Government," although he said the solution to the conflict must be "Latin American," above all.

In addition, the Salvadoran foreign minister, who will leave for Washington today with Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes to attend the special meeting of OAS foreign ministers, said that the OAS "must demand concrete results and specific actions so that the people's autonomy and sovereignty can be respected."

Under the Salvadoran Government's proposal, the foreign ministers commission would be tasked with traveling to Panama to inform Gen Noriega of the decisions made in Washington. The possibility that those decisions might include the permanent expulsion of Panama [from the OAS] has not been ruled out.

Calls on Noriega To 'Give In'

PA1605163489 Paris AFP in Spanish 1552 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Bogota, 16 May (AFP)—Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega "must give in so as to save democracy, because his presence is a cause of tension and disorder," Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo said in Bogota today.

Acevedo, who decorated Colombian President Virgilio Barco last night, said that Noriega must respect the results of the recent presidential election, adding that the Panamanian crisis affects "democracy throughout Latin America."

Gen Noriega "has to go because he is a cause of tension, a cause of disorder," Acevedo said emphatically.

The Salvadoran foreign minister announced that he will go to the United States tomorrow to participate in the OAS meeting on Panama.

Panamanian democracy has been violated and sullied, and I say it is Noriega's duty to vindicate himself by recognizing the Panamanian people's right to exercise self-determination and to seek their own destiny, Acevedo said.

Asked by Bogota's Todelar radio network if El Salvador would support Panama's expulsion from the OAS, Acevedo said he favors such a decision under certain conditions.

"Only if it is the product of a unanimous consensus of the Latin American peoples," he said. "We cannot lend ourselves to any maneuver that undermines the unity of the Latin American bloc," he added.

"Today, more than ever, we are united on the basis of democracy and freedom, and we cannot lend ourselves to any maneuver that seeks to divide us," the Salvadoran foreign minister said.

Acevedo said Panama's expulsion from the OAS is possible, "because the 'ball' is in our court, in Latin America's court, and it is up to the OAS to take the initiative against General Noriega."

"The most important thing is for Latin American democracy to be strengthened by this situation," Acevedo said. He admitted that the OAS has faced serious problems affecting its activities and its legitimacy as a Latin American institute to solve the continent's problems.

"We have to act very carefully to ensure that the OAS and Latin America come off well in this matter, while at the same time achieving the objective of getting the Panamanian regime to yield to our pressure," Acevedo said.

According to Acevedo, Noriega should accept Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez' offer of political asylum. Although El Salvador is free and open, "it would not be to Noriega's liking," Acevedo said.

"Gen Noriega should accept a face-saving solution, like the one offered by President Perez," Acevedo said. He added: "Noriega should make this decision as soon as possible, because the situation could become more difficult."

'Terrorist Offensive' Called 'Complete Failure'

PA1705031989 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 15 May 89 pp 10, 43

[Text] The Armed Forces believe that the new terrorist offensive announced by "Commander" Roberto Roca for May is merely propaganda.

A Defense Ministry Public Relations Office communique states that the FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front] initiated its alleged offensive against the Salvadoran people after learning of the results of the 19 March elections and after the failure of its political and military campaign in February and March of this year.

The so-called offensive, the communique states, did not produce good results, "mainly because the people took to the streets to vote at the polls; because of the government's counterproposal, which drew support from the political parties; and because of the unilateral cease-fire declared by the Armed Forces before the elections."

This new FMLN-FDR failure has forced the terrorist leaders to take violent and propagandistic actions in a bid to gain recognition at the U.S. Congress and at the United Nations and thus to start negotiations with the new Salvadoran Government.

According to the defense minister, the new offensive consists of the following: politically to discredit the new government—specifically the Armed Forces—both nationally and internationally; and militarily to continue terrorist attacks against the people through the indiscriminate use of mines and the destruction of the public service infrastructure, such as government offices, mayors' offices, electric power transmission towers and poles, and attacks on military installations.

Chief of Staff Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce said that the FMLN-FDR's military actions carried out on 10 May did not yield any beneficial results because they were clearly propagandistic activities. The FMLN-FDR wants to prove that they have military capabilities, but what is apparent is that the new terrorist offensive has been a complete failure, the Defense Ministry's Public Relations Office states.

FMLN Blamed for Attack on Assembly President

PA1705040189 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0303 GMT 17 May 89

[Excerpts] Guerrilla urban commando units attacked the home of National Assembly President Ricardo Alvarenga Valdivieso today at noon, killing a National Police officer guarding the house.

The attack took place at approximately 1330 and was allegedly perpetrated by guerrilla urban commando units. During the attack, National Police officer Fidel Sanchez Sanchez was seriously wounded. He was taken to a military hospital by members of Alvarenga's security police. Alvarenga was having lunch in his home when the police officers guarding his home were attacked.

Witnesses have reported that four youths in a red pickup truck shot at the policemen from a distance of 20 meters. This led to an exchange of gunfire, alarming residents in the Colonia Miramontes area. [passage omitted]

Alvarenga accused the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] of being directly responsible for the attack. He attributed the attack to the fact that he is opposed to allowing 100 handicapped guerrillas to leave the country. Alvarenga added that the insurgents' attitude has definitely closed the door on the possibility of carrying out this evacuation.

[Begin Alvarenga recording] It cannot be. Today, more than ever, I insist that these handicapped guerrillas should not leave the country. If the Salvadoran president, all of them [not further identified], and the justice minister allow these handicapped guerrillas to leave, then we will keep fighting against that type of action. Why not take the children who have been maimed out of the country? So many children have been maimed by bombs! I would like to see at least one Salvadoran child be taken to a large hospital in Germany.

It is not necessary to go to such extremes. Am I making myself clear? Tell me, how can we speak of humanitarian acts when our Salvadoran children, our youth are being maimed? I just want to say that I cannot assure you that we will prevent guerrilla coercive actions. The Legislative Assembly cannot prevent this. What we can do is legislate. We need to legislate a bit more to give our people security. If that is a problem for the FMLN and, for this reason, it has elements it wishes to destroy.... [changes thought] Look, they can destroy me. This is true. I do not want it to happen, but they can destroy me. But others like Ricardo Alvarenga will come forward. [end recording]

The attack took place on Bernal Avenue in Colonia Miramontes, a few minutes after Alvarenga entered his home. Alvarenga suffered no injuries. As of yet, the FMLN has not claimed responsibility for the attack.

Rebels Sabotage Power Lines, Black Out Cities
PA1705040689 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0341 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] The Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission [CEL] has reported that the guerrillas sabotaged three 115,000-volt primary power lines a few hours ago. The rebels also damaged a 46,000-volt secondary power line, thus causing a 30-percent energy shortage nationwide. As a result of the sabotage, the city of Sensuntepeque and other cities and towns in Cabanas Department have no electricity, the CEL stated. The CEL added that its repair crews are currently working to repair the damage caused by the FMLN. The CEL hopes to resume electricity service throughout the country as soon as possible.

Guatemala

U.S. Supply Helicopter Crashes at Airport
PA1705034389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0307 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 16 May (DPA)—A U.S. helicopter used to provide assistance to the Guatemalan Army crashed this evening when trying to land at the military airport in Guatemala City.

According to initial reports, several passengers were injured, including U.S. personnel, who were taken to the military hospital in Guatemala City.

According to information supplied by the Guatemalan Army, the U.S. aircraft was being used to help carry food and supplies to towns that are hard to reach.

According to reports sent by guerrilla groups to Guatemalan newspapers—which have published these reports—these flights are all part of the [U.S. Armed Forces'] military support in the fight against the subversives.

There is no information yet on the type of aircraft involved in the accident, which resulted when "it lost power" before landing, according to initial reports. U.S. Army "Chinook" helicopters are used in Guatemala for various operations carried out between Guatemala City and areas far away from the capital.

This is the fourth aircraft accident in recent months. A Guatemalan Air Force (FAG) "Pilatus" airplane crashed some months ago in Chimaltenango Province, and its pilot died in the accident. A FAG helicopter recently plunged into the Peten Itza Lake, located in northern Guatemala; two crewmen died and two survived the accident.

The Army's official version reported that these accidents were caused by bad weather or mechanical failure. Guerrilla reports, which have been published in local newspapers, say that the aircraft were shot down by their antiaircraft units.

Honduras

President Talks on Economy, Contras, Refugees
FL1605171389 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1740 GMT 15 May 89

[News conference by President Jose Azcona with local and foreign correspondents introduced by unidentified moderator; at the Presidential Palace in Tegucigalpa; date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Moderator] Gustavo Rubi.

[Rubi] Mr President, during your absence the U.S. Embassy released a harsh document drafted by embassy economists. In the document they criticized the way the government has handled the economic situation. Some sectors consider this document meddling on the part of the U.S. Embassy or a way to soften you to accept the international mechanisms.

[Azcona] The document was not drafted in the terms you have just mentioned. They presented some truths and suggested some measures they feel should be adopted. We are not going to accept suggestions from the embassy, the IMF, the World Bank, or from anyone else that are not in the best interest of Honduras. It has been said that the administration [not further specified] has decided that if no agreement is reached with the IMF there will be no disbursement of the economic stabilization aid. I would like to add that whatever the U.S. Government's position may be, if it is not in the best interests of Honduras to sign an agreement with the IMF, we will not sign it despite the U.S. Embassy's position. This does not mean that they must refrain from offering suggestions and recommendations if these are made in the hopes of helping us. But it also does not mean that we are going to follow any of their suggestions.

[Moderator] Gustavo Palencia, San Pedro Sula TIEMPO.

[Palencia] Mr President, during the meeting of the Central American presidents in San Salvador a 90-day deadline was set to draft a demobilization plan for the Nicaraguan contras in Honduras, as well as the implementation of democratic measures in Nicaragua. This deadline expires today. The Nicaraguans have abided by some of their commitments. They have released some Somozists guardsmen and they have amended their Electoral Law. However, the contras are still in Honduras and apparently there are clear signs that they are not going to leave Honduras. How do you view the situation surrounding the fulfillment of the El Salvador peace agreements?

[Azcona] What I can see from your question and your statements—you are not only asking but stating some things. You have said that the Nicaraguans have abided by the agreements and that we have not. You are following the exact line TIEMPO follows.

What we said in El Salvador and what we upheld after President Daniel Ortega promised to make all those changes....[leaves thought unfinished] Contrary to what you think, I do not believe he has complied faithfully with what he promised.

An electoral law must be totally transparent; there can be no ties. An electoral tribunal must be totally independent from a government. An electoral tribunal must make decisions whether the current government likes it or not. Otherwise, an electoral law and the electoral tribunal or council that is partial toward the government will tear up tally sheets just like they did in Panama. The idea is not to give the opposition one or two seats on the tribunal. No, the opposition must have the same number of representatives as the ruling party has. Here in Honduras our tribunal is made up of one representative of the Liberal Party of Honduras, two of the National Party of Honduras, and the PINU [Innovation and Unity Party] and the Honduran Christian Democratic Party have one representative each. In other words, on the National Electoral Tribunal, the ruling party has one vote against four. Despite the amendments to the electoral law, this is not the case in Nicaragua. God forbid, but what could happen in Nicaragua is something similar to what happened in Panama. That is, not having a transparent electoral process. Therefore, there is no such thing as abiding by the agreements.

Regarding Honduras: At the request of the Honduran President—there is a document to prove this—and in light of the promises made by the Nicaraguan president, Honduras asked the other presidents to help draft a plan for the demobilization of the contras and their voluntary relocation in Nicaragua or third countries. In other words, those plans have been drafted. Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua have each drafted a plan. We must now meet to reach an agreement regarding the plan. However, the 90-day deadline coincided with the Salvadoran elections, the election of a new Salvadoran president, and the normal and correct decision adopted by the current Salvadoran president who said that a new president had been elected and he did not feel that it would be appropriate for him to make a decision regarding a matter that would have to be followed through by the president-elect. The Salvadoran president felt that the new Salvadoran president should be the one to set Salvadoran foreign policy as established in the Salvadoran Constitution. This shows you that Honduras had nothing to do with the fact that the summit has not been held. As a matter of fact, we suggested, and later announced our suggestion that a summit be held in Tela today, but then came the letter from the Salvadoran president. The president-elect of El Salvador visited our country and I told him that it was imperative that we hold the summit as soon as possible because we must solve the contra and refugee situation promptly. You hear everyone talk about the contras, but no one mentions the refugees. This problem is even greater than the contra problem. The refugees are an immobilized contra, a contra without the possibility of fighting. There are 3, 4, 6, 7, 10 times more refugees than counterrevolutionaries. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Edgardo Melgar of "Blazing Trails."

[Melgar] Mr President, does the escalation [word indistinct] in Nicaragua and Panama and the violence in [words indistinct] affect the future of our country?

[Azcona] [Words indistinct] his attitude has been condemned by the whole world. We can no longer say that the U.S. Republicans or the U.S. Government want to oust Mr Noriega nor can we say that there are senators who are against him. No. Condemnation was expressed by all those who were present and observed the elections. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was one of them. No one can doubt Carter's friendship with Panama. He signed the Torrijos-Carter treaties. We were all horrified when we saw that the Panamanian security forces just stepped aside and allowed a vice presidential candidate to be beaten. That is something horrible; that's the exact word, horrible. The same word applies when the original electoral tally sheets are torn up and replaced by fake tally sheets. If the elections in Nicaragua are going to be like the ones in Panama, then I think the current situation will get worse. Now, if the elections are clean elections and Ortega, or any other Sandinist candidate wins, then we will have to recognize that government and go forward. This is why I said earlier that changes to an electoral law are not enough. No. The electoral law must be very clear. A government that reserves the right to make the final decision of an electoral tribunal is a government that is not acting within the law. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] The next question will be asked by REUTER correspondent Henry Streets.

[Streets] Mr President, how do you feel about the use of U.S. troops to pressure respect for the vote in Panama? If the same thing happens in Nicaragua next February, will you support a similar effort to pressure Ortega? Will you allow the bases in Honduras to be used for this purpose?

[Azcona] The situations in Nicaragua and Panama are two completely different things. There are still U.S. military bases in Panama. The U.S. Southern Command is there. The Panama Canal is run by the Panama Canal Commission and the U.S. Government is the sole shareholder of that company. The situation is different.

I do not think that the deployment of those troops to Panama will have any effect. None whatsoever. The troops were deployed to protect the lives of the U.S. citizens who are now living within the Canal Zone. If that is the reason why the troops are there, then the United States must be praised because it is taking steps to protect the lives of its people. Will the troops change the situation in Panama? I doubt it. I think that the deployment of troops actually benefits Noriega's position. However, I do think that the world must give Noriega and those who have torn up the original election tally sheets some sort of lesson. We cannot fold our arms in face of that kind of outrage. This is why the OAS, at the request of Venezuela, will meet on Wednesday. I think that a condemnation for that kind of attitude and against the acts committed should result from the meeting. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Panama, OAS Meeting

PA1605172089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1632 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 16 May (EFE)—Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras said today that his country might refrain from recognizing the present Panamanian Government, and he said this option will be studied at the OAS.

Shortly before leaving for Washington today to attend tomorrow's meeting of the continent's foreign ministers at the OAS headquarters, Lopez Contreras told EFE that the Panamanian crisis has generated concern throughout the continent.

The diplomat said the meeting in Washington is a form of pressure that is juridical in nature, but nevertheless has "great political impact."

He added that Honduras is on the "democratic path" and that what Latin America needs is for "the sovereignty of democracies to be respected."

Lopez said that relations between Honduras and Panama "are being analyzed," and that at the "collective meeting" of foreign ministers in Washington, a resolution might be adopted that would have short- and medium-term effects on Panama's return to a democratic system.

The foreign minister also praised the elections held on 14 May in Argentina that were won by Carlos Menem, presidential candidate of the Justicialist Party.

"We respect the results of such processes, and the winner must assume the government's duties," Carlos Lopez Contreras said.

Azcona Reminded of Contra Departure Deadline

FL1605184689 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 13 May 89 p 5

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Several of the country's popular organizations yesterday delivered a letter to the president of the Republic in which they reminded him that Monday is the deadline for the Nicaraguan contras to be demobilized in Honduras in keeping with the implementation of the Esquipulas II and El Salvador agreements.

The letter is signed, among others, by the People's Organizations Coordinating Committee (CCOP), the National Federation of Rural Workers (CNTC), the Visitacion Padilla Honduran Committee of Women in Favor of Peace [Comite Hondureno de Mujeres por la Paz "Visitacion Padilla"], the Christian Democratic Youth movement, the STENEE [not further identified], and the SITRAMEDHYS [Union of Medical, Hospital, and Related Workers].

The letter is also addressed to the heads of the National Congress, Carlos Orbin Montoya; the Supreme Court, Salomon Jimenez Castro; and the Armed Forces, General Humberto Regalado Hernandez.

In their letter the popular organizations say that if the contras are not demobilized "this means that our government does not respect either our constitutional rights or the agreements, which have international backing."

"Our people," the letter continues, "are tired of being humiliated by the contras and the U. S. troops, and are tired of displaced persons and of refugees. They are sad to see that in their own homeland foreign soldiers are occupying the land while farmers do not have any land to till. The contra hospitals in Honduras are better equipped than the centers that provide medical attention to Hondurans."

"To make matters worse," the letter adds, "one of the top medical centers in the world for physical rehabilitation is in Tegucigalpa to serve the contras, but Hondurans do not know about it and are not eligible for its services."

The popular organizations warn that "this occupation by foreign troops and guerrillas is a serious threat to the security of Hondurans, a veritable affront to the electoral process, and irrefutable proof that democracy is impossible in a country that is occupied by foreign troops."

Rosenthal Recommends AID Release 1989 Funds

FL1605174289 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 15 May 89

[Report by Julio Hernandez Valdez]

[Text] Last night, Presidential Designate Jaime Rosenthal Oliva was a guest on the Foro Tres program transmitted over channels 3 and 7 by Telesistema Hondureno. Rosenthal commented on economic issues and on our national economic policy. Regarding the crisis, Rosenthal said:

[Begin Rosenthal recording] There is no doubt that a crisis benefits those who know how to take advantage of it in the short term. That is to say, there are greater opportunities to do business during a crisis period than in a non-crisis situation. Due to a scarcity of cash or because of the current problem, some people feel compelled to sell real estate holdings or stocks and bonds at a loss, and this benefits others who know how to do business.

Perhaps a large number of businesses in Honduras are operating and making a profit as if there were no crisis here. However, the majority of responsible businessmen do not see things this way. The Honduran private sector—and you were present at the meeting called by the COHEP [Honduran Council for Private Enterprise]—does in fact want to solve the long term problem because, to be truthful, for the private sector, for private businesses, to develop in the long term, the country has to grow. We cannot grow at the expense of others. We cannot view things only from the standpoint of the crisis. We have to view things in the long term and to foster a natural growth, in harmony with the growth of the country's population and economy.

In this regard I believe that everyone would like to resolve the crisis. But there is no doubt that, for example, we seem to speak the same language and understand each other better when dealing with some AID technicians than when dealing with other government advisors, because one does have to know something about economic matters. It is not enough to want to solve the problem and to be acting in good faith. One also has to know something about the subject. For example, doctors study medicine, economists study economics. Some people have studies and experience in the field and consequently know more about economics than those who would like...or who are involved in the economic process because of certain circumstances. The president is fond of saying that there are no schools to teach you how to be a cabinet minister, but there are schools to teach people about economic and monetary matters. Monetary policy is a very specialized economic field; it is a difficult subject. There are very few people who have knowledge of the field, know the problem in depth, and are familiar with this problem in Honduras. [end recording]

Rosenthal—who was answering questions by analysts Juan Ramon Martinez and Herman Allan Padgett on the Foro Tres program directed by Jose Emilio Soriano—was asked what should be done to counter this crisis, this national problem.

[Begin Rosenthal recording] To make it brief, the government must be dismantled: All autonomous institutions that are not necessary to the country should be shut down, and the government should be decentralized. As many institutions as possible should be moved out of Tegucigalpa, allowing them to operate at a much lower cost. To be able to adopt these measures we must first ask the AID to release the funds for this year and to break away from the IMF, because the AID should be thinking about helping these countries and [word indistinct] the U.S. Congress' way of thinking so as to resolve the long term problem. The IMF is only interested in the short term problem; it wants us to rapidly reduce the fiscal deficit in any way possible so that we can have enough funds to meet our commitments with the World Bank and with the IMF. [end recording]

Nicaragua

Foreign Ministry Letter Sent to James Baker

PA1705134389 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1210 GMT 17 May 89

[Letter from Acting Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker—date not given]

[Text] Mr Secretary of State:

I hereby address you to protest most vigorously the clear and irrefutable fact that your government, with flagrant disregard for the agreements reached by the [Central American] presidents within the Esquipulas process, has continued to foment war in Central America, in disrespect for the political will of the five Central American presidents.

The following facts are undeniable proof that your country continues to pursue a war against Nicaragua:

From 1 January through 15 May 1989, 47 civilians have been murdered by the counterrevolutionaries, 38 have been wounded, and 131 kidnapped, making a grand total of 216 civilian victims. In that same period, our Army troops sustained 309 casualties. For their part, on being repelled by our troops, the mercenary forces have sustained 707 casualties. These figures speak for themselves of the intensity with which acts of aggression are being carried out against my country, even after the signing of the joint declaration at Costa del Sol on 14 February 1989.

The analysis of a short period of time—from 1 to 15 May 1989—provides abundant proof of this statement. On 2, 5, 6, and 7 May, there were three attacks a day by the contras against our troops and civilian targets. On 3 and 11 May, there were 7 attacks each day. On 4, 12, 13, and 14 May, there were 6 attacks each; on 8 and 9 May there was 1 attack each day; and on 1, 10, and 15 May, there were 2 attacks each day. As a result of these criminal actions, 9 civilians were killed, 5 injured, and 32 kidnapped, making a total of 46 civilian victims. Our troops sustained a total of 31 casualties—9 killed and 22 wounded—while the mercenaries sustained 67 casualties.

Mr Secretary: This list of actions against my country is overwhelming evidence that the policy currently pursued by your government is not helping to establish peace in Central America. The bipartisan agreement to keep the mercenary groups on Honduran territory, from which they infiltrate Nicaragua, is having a negative effect on the prospects for peace in the region and encouraging the continued violation of human rights.

The main cause of the continued war against my country is the clear contradiction that exists between the use of force and the threat posed by the bipartisan agreement, as opposed to the decision of the Central American presidents adopted in Costa del Sol, El Salvador, to proceed toward the voluntary demobilization, repatriation, and relocation of the contras and their relatives.

It must be clearly understood that retention of the contras in Honduras is a violation of the Esquipulas and Costa del Sol agreements, as well as of international law. The presidents very clearly called for an end to aid for irregular groups, except for humanitarian aid that contributes to the purposes of the joint plan. Within this framework, aid that is not destined for those purposes is disrespectful of the will of the area's presidents, without whom it will be impossible to achieve the peace for which our peoples are clamoring. So far, the policy of keeping a door open for continuing the war—in addition to its cost in invaluable human lives and property damage—has halted the implementation of the presidential decisions, which had been progressing prior to the bipartisan agreement. In addition, the establishment of the mission of UN observers in Central America, has been obstructed, and the joint plan for the demobilization, repatriation, and relocation of the contras and their relatives has not yet been ratified by the presidents, even though the deadline for this has expired and even though a text approved by a commission of the area's deputy ministers already exists.

Mr Secretary, these negative trends in the peace process are the direct consequence of political concepts that run contrary to sovereign decisions of the Central American presidents. If the U.S. Government is truly interested in advancing toward the solution of the Central American crisis, it must begin by respecting the Central Americans' will. We have already seen the dangerous effects that the latest decisions adopted by your government have had on the peace process.

A serene reflection on these facts demands that constructive decisions be made by the new U.S. Administration, decisions that contribute to the establishment of the UN observers mission; to the ratification and implementation of the joint plan adopted in Guatemala for the demobilization of the contras; and to an end to the attacks, kidnappings, and provocations being carried out daily by conterrevolutionary groups, which are ignoring the cease-fire the Nicaraguan Government unilaterally declared on offensive military actions.

The Nicaraguan Government feels that in the peace process there must be the same spirit of compliance with and respect for established deadlines that the Nicaraguan Government has shown in carrying out actions announced unilaterally by President Ortega at the Costa del Sol summit.

Respectfully yours,

[Signed] Jose Leon Talavera, acting foreign minister

Ortega Willing To Approve Demobilization Plan

PA1605212189 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1942 GMT 16 May 89

["Letter" issued by President Daniel Ortega on 15 May—place of issue not given]

[Text] Dear president and friend [not further identified]:

At the Costa Del Sol, El Salvador summit, we Central American presidents committed ourselves to drafting—within a period not to exceed 90 days—a joint plan for the voluntary demobilization, repatriation, or relocation of the Nicaraguan Resistance members and their relatives either to Nicaragua or to any other third country.

The 90-day period expired on 15 May 1989, which is the date on which I write this letter. When we signed the Costa del Sol joint statement, we agreed that abiding by the periods thereby established was a decisive element in promoting a lasting and stable peace in Central America. We can no longer postpone decisions that are so crucial for our people's future. We have the fundamental responsibility of proving our political resolve through specific actions.

Bearing that in mind, the Nicaraguan Government has been unilaterally conducting the activities I announced at our Costa del Sol summit. We believe that bearing that same responsibility in mind, we must continue to fulfill the other commitments included in the statement we signed on 14 February.

By honoring our commitment to ratify the plan [for voluntary demobilization, repatriation, and relocation], we will contribute to ensuring that the so-called, quote, humanitarian aid, unquote, approved by the United States will actually be devoted to fulfilling the plan's purpose. We will thus prevent the continuance of the war and the violation of international law.

The commission created by the Central American foreign ministers has already fulfilled its mission of preparing a joint plan at their third meeting held in Guatemala on 4 and 5 May 1989. The Central American presidents now have the responsibility of approving the joint plan within the established time period in order to abide by the solemn commitment we made in Costa del Sol.

For that reason, dear president, I believe that we cannot postpone the approval of the joint plan until our next meeting in Honduras. To faithfully fulfill the approved timetable, we must immediately approve the aforementioned plan. I wish to convey to you my willingness to approve the joint plan in accordance with the terms agreed upon during the executive commission meeting held in Guatemala.

The Nicaraguan Government believes that the other Central American governments must show the same willingness, because a refusal to approve the plan would be in clear violation not only of the Costa del Sol Agreement, but also of the Esquipulas Agreement. Such a refusal would set a precedent for the continued failure to abide by the commitments established by international law and which pertain to the prevention of the use of one country's territory to destabilize other governments and of the delivery of aid to groups carrying out those destabilization activities.

In addition, such a refusal would provide support for the alternative suggested in the U.S. bipartisan agreement, which is to keep the contras in Honduras—in flagrant violation of international law and our presidential agreements.

I send you my greetings and convey to you the Nicaraguan Government's unyielding determination to make all efforts necessary for the region's governments to fulfill faithfully and completely the agreements signed within the framework of the Esquipulas process, which stresses that all the region's governments must respect human rights.

Fraternally,

Daniel Ortega Saavedra

Bayardo Arce Cited on Panamanian Elections

PA1605134389 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1258 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Referring to incidents in Panama and what could happen in Nicaragua, Commander Bayardo Arce Castano, vice coordinator of the Sandinist National Liberation Front executive commission, said the United States will not be able to stage the same election hoax in Nicaragua that it was able to implement in Panama.

[Begin Arce recording] I believe that whenever there are economic problems, this has repercussions on the people's voting, particularly if people do not clearly understand the reasons for the economic problems and the prospects to solve them. Part of our continuing political work, which we must now intensify, is to make things clearer to our people, so that no one will forget our economic problems are basically due to the war, U.S. aggression, and the destruction caused by Reagan during the past 8 years that totals $15 billion, which is what we have been demanding from the United States at the International Court of Justice. Second, people must clearly understand that, in any case, economic problems have not caused a sitution any worse than what existed prior to the triumph of the revolution. Peasants now have land, and our children can go to school, are provided free transportation, and receive a glass of milk each day, in addition to other benefits that no one could even dream about during the dictatorship.

We must also try to make people understand that as part of this economic policy, opportunities exist to overcome these difficulties and continue to progress. [end recording]

Panama

Dignity Brigade Leader Presents Communique

PA1705004589 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2306 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Benjamin Colamarco, a high-ranking Dignity Brigade leader, said during a news conference at the Atlapa Convention Center's Portobelo Room that if the United States intervenes militarily in Panama, the Dignity Brigade's 10,000 patriots will form the vanguard in the struggle to defend Panama's sovereignty.

The Dignity Brigade members accompanying Colamarco as he addressed the national and international press accredited in Panama presented a communique with the slogan: Panama for Panamanians; sovereignty or death. The communique pointed out that the Dignity Battalions are of patriotic, nationalistic, and anti-imperialist origin and are composed of civilians.

The document states that the Dignity Battalions are formed by more than 10,000 Panamanians from all social strata, regardless of race, color, age, creed, political doctrine or ideology, because nationality is the product of the Panamanian people's openness and patriotism.

The Dignity Brigade's communique also specifies that the battalions receive periodic military training from the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], an institution with which they share Torrijos' popular philosophy and the plan for independent national development, which requires compliance with the Panama Canal Treaties currently in effect.

The Dignity Brigade is composed of the following battalions: Archangel Saint Michael, Latin Liberation, Rosa Elena Landecho, 16 December Torrijist Command, Fatherland, Sovereignty, Indio-Nome, Atacara, Free Los Santos, Omar Torrijos, Tuira Sentinel, Dignity Omar, Admiral Cristopher Columbus, Nele Kantule, Sipir-Markdet-Sate, and Generational Conquest.

After the communique's presentation, Colamarco answered reporters' questions, warning that the Dignity Brigade is in a state of maximum alert in response to the U.S. plan to militarily attack the Panamanian people.

[Begin Colamarco recording] We have determined that this is a critical period with regard to a possible military intervention by the approximately 15,000 U.S. troops present in our territory. We will be on special alert as of today and until Friday. We have adopted this special alert status precisely because there are conditions or circumstances that may possibly lead the U.S. Southern Command strategists to intervene in our territory within the next few hours.

Let us not forget what happened in the Dominican Republic in 1965. The OAS was also used at that time. It provided the United States with an excuse to stage a military intervention in the Dominican Republic. Therefore, the Dignity Battalions are on special alert. We believe that within the next few hours, we can expect the U.S. Southern Command to order U.S. troops to leave the U.S. military bases and to enter Panamanian territory. We have faith in the wisdom and the solidarity of the Latin American people. We hope that they [the United States] will not make the same mistake, because we are ready to repel any type of military aggression.

Each brigade member—each one of the Dignity Brigades' 10,000 volunteer patriots—knows the meaning of Operation Sovereignty. Each brigade member knows what to do in the case of U.S. military intervention. Each brigade member knows where and when to go and what to do as part of the national resistance against U.S. military aggression and against imperialist aggression. [end recording]

Dr Colamarco also told journalists that Panama has already received the solidarity of the Latin American people, who reject any kind of armed intervention in Panamanian territory:

[Begin Colamarco recording] Many countries, people, and international trade union and labor organizations have given us their solidarity. We have also received moral support from the revolutionary movements in Colombia, Guatemala, and El Salvador, as well as from Nicaragua's Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and from other countries in South America. They have all expressed their solidarity with the Panamanian people's struggle for liberation.

At this point, however, we wish to state that we have not received any weapons or combat support from the 19 April Movement, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, the FSLN, or the Guatemalan guerrillas. Furthermore, we are not expecting to receive such support at this time, nor are we counting on it.

In the event of a U.S. military intervention—which would unleash a war—I think we will have more than just the support of these revolutionary movements, which have given us their solidarity. We will have the support of all of Latin America. Latin America will become a battleground to defend our region's interests. The United States has always considered Latin America its backyard, believing that it can do as it pleases there without anyone ever reprimanding it. That is the truth. [end recording]

Denies Attacks

PA1705043489 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0323 GMT 17 May 89

[Excerpts] This afternoon, the Dignity Brigade released to the local and international press a communique in which they assert their nationalist and patriotic position in defense of our homeland's territorial integrity in view of the threat of a U.S. military invasion. The communique was signed by Benjamin Colamarco, Enrique Thompson, and Major Arturo Marquinez from the reserves. [passage omitted]

The Dignity Brigade communique points out that in their determination to be free, the battalions will take up whatever weapons are necessary to prevent Panamanian blood from being spilled with impunity as a result of an attempt to bend our will. If the price to be paid to enable Panama to chart its own destiny, without abject subjugation to foreign interests, is our lives, we are prepared [to lose them] with such determination that the number of those of us who fall will be multiplied by 10 in the enemy's ranks.

Aware of their brotherhood with all the peoples of the world who are struggling against imperialism or other forms of domination and intervention, the brigade members embrace the peoples' causes in order to reciprocate the solidarity that others have shown in this and other Panamanian struggles.

Finally, the Dignity Brigade swears before the Panamanian people that they are committed to keeping watch so that the Panamanian people's sovereignty will never be trampled upon. [passage omitted] Colamarco said that the Panamanian people are not enemies of the United States and that the only thing that the Panamanian people demand is respect for their integrity, self-determination, and sovereignty.

Likewise, Colamarco rejected statements by U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis that FDP troops in civilian clothing attacked demonstrators during last week's disturbances. He said that only Dignity Battalion members and armed opposition groups were involved in the incidents. Colamarco made it clear that the events were not planned and that the opposition groups were the ones that began firing, resulting in the wounding of four FDP and three Dignity Battalion members.

Commentators Discuss Election 'Alternatives'

PA1605160389 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 May 89

["Paths of Liberation" commentary program with Euclides Fuentes Arroyo, Baltazar Renan Aizpurua, Jorge Montalvan, and "special guest" Democratic Revolutionary Party Legislator Rigoberto Paredes—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Paredes] I would like to discuss what is going to happen after 1 September [the scheduled inauguration date for the new government], how we are going to rule, what is going to happen. I would like to briefly present a plan I support and that could be used as a topic for discussion. I insist that to think we will remain within the constitutional framework is practically impossible, because this would entail holding elections before 1 September. That is the only constitutional solution: Holding elections for president, vice president, and a new Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives. Inasmuch as I am ruling this out, we then have to assume there will be a solution outside the Constitution, a de facto solution. This is nothing new, and no one should be surprised, because life takes precedence over the law. Laws come later, and that is why we will not destroy lives merely to abide by the Constitution and the law. Panama right now needs to save lives, the country, the nation, and Panamanian men. [passage omitted]

We patriots, followers of Torrijos and Noriega, are heading toward our national liberation. We are seeking the establishment of a free and sovereign nation. We have to choose the path of deepening the revolutionary process. However, we have to give the government some sort of form. That is where alternatives emerge. So the elections were cancelled; there were no elections. That is eliminated, that is over with. That is irrevocable. [passage omitted]

What are the possible alternatives? It could be anything you want, because once you bypass the Constitution, there are no guidelines or conditions. However, we can use methods or forms that have been adopted in other parts of the world, and that have also been adopted here in the past. One solution could be a government junta; another could be to extend Solis Palma's term. Another could be for the Legislative Assembly to become a constituent assembly and for it to establish a lower chamber. In this manner, the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives would be the lower chamber, while the Legislative Assembly would be the higher chamber. This would be a new form of the legislative branch. Through this method we could have the option of having a prime minister. Different methods can be sought. I am not advocating any solution in particular.

Much is being said in Panama about a possible agreement, but we must bear in mind that the people have been widely manipulated. Their consciences have been manipulated and they have been deprived of the right to chose, of the freedom—and excuse me for being redundant—to elect freely. There have been the pressures of the dollar, the psychological pressures of war, the psychological pressures of intervention, the psychological pressures of a president from a powerful nation who said he was not going to recognize Duque if he won, and that the other candidate was the one who had to win. Once all this is eliminated, the manipulation of the people is over. We might then find that some people who either now or in the past supported the opposition will realize they were used. Some politicians and some of the people might then be interested in holding conversations and reaching an agreement. If that happens, we could not reject that type of conversation or agreement.

I insist that in order to reach some agreement with groups that are now in the opposition, I would eliminate recalcitrants. The recalcitrants have sold out unconditionally to the United States; they cannot participate. They are traitors, and they are labelled as such. Perhaps there are others who would like to talk. In the event conversations are held to reach an agreement, I have established five conditions or sine qua non requirements.

One: U.S.intervention in the domestic affairs of Panama must definitely come to an end. Two: There must an absolute commitment to comply with the Torrijos-Carter treaties. Three: The United States must return to Panama every single penny that is in escrow and is being withheld in an unjust, criminal, and illegal manner. This includes several hundred million dollars; hear this well, the United States is withholding several hundred million dollars in an unjust, criminal, and entirely illegal manner. Four: Respect for the institutionality of the FDP; this means no attempt to disrupt it. The FDP has shown that it is the most professional force in all of Latin America and the most humane one, the most humane one [Paredes repeats himself]. In spite of the type of war the United States has declared against the Panamanian people, the FDP has managed to keep control against the traitors, against the seditious people, against the turncoats, and against the lackeys of imperialism, who are like soldiers of imperialism inside our own country. The FDP has managed to maintain stability and order without bloodshed. [passage omitted]

Five: Noriega is not negotiable. We must clearly establish that Noriega is playing a dual role. He is the FDP chief as well as—and more important—the leader of a nationalist cause. Therefore, we do not negotiate the leader of a nationalist cause. That would go against our goal. If we seek to become a free and sovereign nation, we choose to deepen the revolution. How can we carry out our revolution if we eliminate the leader? A revolutionary process cannot be carried out without a leader. All social or political movements in the world have been led by outstanding figures. In our case in Panama, the revolutionary process was launched by Omar Torrijos Herrera, and Manuel Antonio Noriega continues with the revolution as its main leader. Therefore, Manuel Antonio Noriega is not negotiable.

By accepting the deepening of the revolutionary process to achieve the common goal of the Panamanian people—national liberation and the establishment of a true free and sovereign nation—then any Panamanian who wants to talk with us about forming a government as of 1 September must accept these five basic requirements. Other points could also be discussed. For example, when elections will be held—if elections are held—or what would be the form of government, or what would be their participation in that government. [passage omitted]

[Aizpurua] I have other alternatives. For example, the Legislative Assembly could extend Solis Palma's term for 2 years under the following conditions: The Legislative Assembly as well as the provincial and district councils are dissolved, the government rules by decrees, and elections are convoked after 2 years.

Another alternative would be: The Solis Palma term concludes on 1 September, the Legislative Assembly calls on the president of the Supreme Court of Justice to become president of the Republic, elections are then convoked within the next 2 years, and the Legislative Assembly is dissolved.

A third alternative would be: The Solis Palma term is extended 2 years, the Legislative Assembly is dissolved, the government rules by decree, and a constituent assembly is convoked 1 year later. The constituent assembly then elects a president for a term to last until 1994. All of this would be done observing the principles of self-determination, nonintervention, no military intervention, and no removal of Gen Noriega.

Another alternative would be: A coup d'etat, a civil-military government, and a transition period— and Gen Noriega would not leave the country. Actually, what the United States wants is for Noriega to leave the country. It is not enough for Noriega to stop being the FDP commander in chief. They want Noriega to leave the country.

[Paredes] That's right, because they want to eliminate the leader.

[Aizpurua] Another solution, or alternative, would be a military coup d'etat. The FDP rules for the next 2 years and calls for elections for a constituent assembly. Also, Gen Noriega would not leave the country.

These are options I am presenting here to our listeners. These can be discussed, and there can be agreements among the parties. [passage omitted]

[Paredes] As some of those scenarios concern me—for example, dissolving the Legislative Assembly—I would like to say that if we have to go that far, I will not be an obstacle. I am a legislator, and I was reelected and proclaimed. [passage omitted] Any of your proposals, Baltazar, is acceptable. Furthermore, if we have to stage a military coup d'etat, and even if we have to give Noriega—something you have not mentioned—powers such as the powers Torrijos had, he must be given these powers. We must take the path that is best for reaching the final objective, and that is national liberation. If the United States, together with internal forces that have sold out to U.S. imperialism, is opposed to that as part of the war that has been declared, then any action we take is legitimate. The end justifies the means. [passage omitted]

We Panamanians are not the ones who are to be blamed for everything happening here. It is true that some Panamanian turncoats are responsible, but the main culprits are, first, the Reagan administration, and then the Bush administration, which has declared a war on us and carried out an intervention as never before, and in a most outrageous manner. [passage omitted]

We must defend the Panamanian cause, and if to defend the Panamanian cause and achieve that goal we must make decisions, we will adopt some of those alternatives. It is as simple as that: We will make those decisions. Furthermore, we are in the process of adopting some of those measures you have presented, Baltazar, or some that I have presented. [passage omitted]

[Aizpurua] Now, concerning tomorrow's OAS meeting and with what the opposition slate has proposed: The opposition slate has proposed this general strike for tomorrow. I want to ask what Rigoberto Paredes thinks about this, but before that, I would like to bring up something.

I ask that the Dignity Battalion units take to the streets and work with with the FDP in maintaining order in this country. That is the request I am making today.

[Paredes] And that is the way it is going to be. I understand this is the way it will be, because it is necessary, inasmuch as the strike has been called by the traitors. Anyone who joins that strike or promotes that strike—merchants, industrialists—are playing into the hands of imperialism, and they are playing into the U.S. Army's intervention. This strike is a call for disturbances in the streets. You know why? Because the seditious traitors will try to impose the strike, and we will try to prevent the strike. Then, situations might arise in the streets. If situations do arise in the streets, then this is precisely one of the justifications they are seeking for armed intervention.

And I tell these merchants and entrepreneurs: If such an armed intervention takes place, forget it. This will be like Beirut, and their shops, stores, businesses...[changes thought] they themselves will not know...

[Aizpurua interrupts] And their elegant homes, also.

[Paredes] Yes, and their elegant homes, also. When the shooting starts, you never know where the bullets will hit. There will be shooting from the gringos and from those within. You just will not know who is shooting you. Since they [the opposition members] have become lackeys and soldiers of the gringos, we then have to assume that in such an internal conflagration, they will attack the Panamanian patriots on behalf of and representing their masters, the U.S. imperialists. Then, we have to defend ourselves. Therefore, I think the strike is being promoted by those who are seeking U.S. intervention. The idea behind this strike is to seek U.S. intervention. Therefore, those who lend themselves to this strike...

[Aizpurua interrupts] By the way, I have read in CRITICA that the Banking Commission does not support the strike, that the bankers will not join the strike.

[Paredes] That is right, and CRITICA publishes the photograph of [Banking Association of Panama President Edgardo] Lasso Valdez.

I guess the bankers understand that if the banks joined this strike, it would be promoting the elimination of the banking center.

[Aizpurua] Lasso Valdez said the bankers will not join the strike, that only the Banking Association can call for a bankers' strike, and that they reject this measure.

[Paredes] Pressure is probably being exerted on the Banking Association so it will meet and adopt measures. It all depends on the stand, courage, and Panamanian and patriotic stand each and every man and woman in Panama's banking sector will adopt.

As I was saying, if we examine the strike, we will see it is illegal. It has been called precisely to create conditions so the OAS will take some action against Panama. This strike is also to create the conditions for disturbances in the streets that will justify the material and physical intervention of the U.S. Army in Panama. If this occurs, they might as well forget everything else. They might as well forget everything, because they will lose their businesses, their enterprises, and, as you said, Baltazar, their elegant homes.

Do not commit that stupidity. Reject that strike. It has been prepared in accordance with the interests of [opposition first vice presidential candidate Ricardo] Arias Calderon, [opposition second vice presidential candidate Guillermo] Ford, and [opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara] Sweet Bread, who want to achieve power even if this means shedding the blood of the Panamanian people, even if this has to be done with the bayonets of the U.S. Army, and even if this means leading this country to ruin.

I think they are wrong in this respect. If the U.S. Army were to enter Panama, this does not mean they would achieve power. This would lead to anarchy, and no one would rule over anything or anyone.

[Aizpurua] Besides, what are they going to rule? That is the question. I assure you many things will be destroyed. That is what they want for this country, but they will have to rule over the ashes of the ruins.

[Paredes] And I ask you: Who will guarantee—speaking of the rest of the world—that the canal will continue to run after the gringos enter here? Who will guarantee that?

[Aizpurua] No one.

[Paredes] Not even they can guarantee that.

[Aizpurua] The only guarantee for that is a people such as ours, who are not hostile. The United States knows this perfectly well. Their intelligence sources have said it and continue to say it. The canal cannot operate with a hostile population. There are 135 strategic points in the canal with which we Panamanians are familiar. That canal operates because Panama has protected it, because the Panamanian people have protected it. The canal is ours, and it will either be ours or nobody's.

[Paredes] The Dignity Battalions will be supporting the FDP in maintaining order. And those Dignity Battalions are precisely that—battalions of national dignity—and we must support them. Besides, in addition to the dignity battalions, there will also be other people providing protection. Thus, there will be peace and order. Unfortunately, in some cases peace and order must be imposed, because those who want disturbances would like to create conditions to disrupt order. In that way, there would be disturbances to justify anything that will let them achieve power. They will not achieve power, because we will not let a U.S. aggression against Panama bring about a puppet government in the service of the United States. It would be a treacherous government that would not only surrender the treaties but also the bases, the canal, and everything else. Forget that story that they are only interested in the military bases. I know they are mainly interested in the bases, but that canal produces a lot more than our people think. I can state that because I am close to some of the activities taking place in the Panama Canal Commission. The profits are so huge that there is a group of officials there who feasts on the bids. Bids are won by those they choose, and there is bribery, there is tremendous corruption, and I can prove it with documents they themselves have produced. [passage omitted]

Part of the problem is that the Americans do not want to turn the administration of the canal over to Panama, because after only 1 month, and even more so after 1 year, it will be evident that a Panamanian administration is much more efficient—from a productive point of view—than a U.S. administration. The U.S. administration has been a corrupt administration, and I can prove it. [passage omitted]

Government To Promote Agreement

PA1705044989 Paris AFP in Spanish 0359 GMT 17 May 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 16 May (AFP)—A top Panamanian Government leader today said that the regime headed by General Manuel Antonio Noriega is studying the possibility of proposing constitutional reforms and a "broad national agreement" to overcome the crisis caused by the annulment of the 7 May elections.

According to the source, a top leader of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), the agreement with the opposition parties would include the withdrawal of the military to its barracks and the creation of a "new system of government," which would be established after 1 September, the date President Manuel Solis Palma's term expires.

When asked whether the agreement includes General Noriega's retirement as commander in chief of the FDP—a demand the opposition and the United States have been making for 2 years—the source said he did not believe this issue was debatable. He stressed, however, that "there will be a withdrawal of the FDP."

Furthermore, the source said the Panamanian Government will try to "show" during tomorrow's OAS meeting in Washington that "there were irregularities" in the 7 May elections, which were later annulled by the Electoral Tribunal.

The government source emphasized that the irregularities were committed by the opposition, supported by "U.S. meddling in the elections."

The spokesman added: "No election in Panama has ever ended without charges of fraud. This shows we must reform the political system." [passage omitted]

Labor Minister Rejects Work Stoppage Strike

PA1605184089 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1655 GMT 16 May 89

[Interview by Labor and Social Welfare Minister Cesar Martans and unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Martans] The employers' work stoppage is something that is not contemplated in the Constitution or in the Labor Code. Therefore, we are talking about something illegal. Moreover, the 1947 Labor Code specifically prohibits employers' strike, also known as a lock-out [preceding two words in English]. Therefore, we urge businessmen not to take part, under a political pretext [words indistinct] involved in something that is completely illegal. We believe it is also necessary to remind all business owners in the country—particularly those who may let themselves be pulled along by the most radical group of businessmen, whose mission is purely political—that they should not lead businesses to further economic disaster. Remember what happened last year.

Our message to workers is: You should go to work; you should go to work because it is your duty to provide services, as it is the duty of the employer to provide jobs to workers. In view of these circumstances, our appeal to both sides is to put aside all political feelings so workers can go to work as usual, to avoid further problems and the economic disaster we saw during the 1988 crisis.

I must remind workers that the crisis affected them most when businesses decided last year to carry out these work stoppages. As a result, there were 2,770 dismissals reported at the Labor Ministry last April. During May, exactly a year ago, we recorded 3,934 dismissals, the highest number of dismissals ever reported at the Labor Ministry, as a consequence of the employers' work stoppage. Therefore, based on this, we urge both parties to reflect. We appeal to businessmen to avoid further worsening the country's economic crisis and the crisis at their own businesses. We urge workers to go to work.

Finally, we must state we will be very harsh regarding the sanctions we may impose on businesses that participate in the stoppage.

[Reporter] Sanctions...

[Martans, interrupting] They will consist of fines established by the Labor Code. However, I must point out that in view of these circumstances, the Labor Ministry will review—with regard to banks and industrial or commercial enterprises—all aspects related to foreign businessmen who come to this country, who are given the opportunity [to work here], who have work permits, but whose work permits have been granted so they may work, and not to be involved in politics. Based on that, in some cases we will analyze whether or not it is necessary to revoke those work permits.

Supply, Services To Remain Open

PA1705014989 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2350 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The Executive Branch has issued Decree No 13 of 16 May 1989, whereby commercial and public service measures are adopted. The decree, signed by Manuel Solis Palma [minister in charge of the Presidency], and Commerce and Industry Minister Isaac Hanono establishes that private food and medicine supply companies, cargo and passenger transporters, fuel suppliers, and other public and general services—as defined by the law—will serve the public without interruptions that are not sanctioned by law or by the competent authorities. These firms must operate within their normal working hours or, in any case, their schedules must follow the time frames established in labor contracts, collective contracts, or internal labor regulations, as the case may be.

The Labor and Social Welfare Ministry will resolve any controversies that may emerge as a result of this decree. The ministry will ensure compliance with the decree and inform the Commerce and Industry Ministry of any violations so that the appropriate legal action can be taken.

Any agreements, pacts, or actions perpetrated by the owners of commercial or industrial establishments that are aimed at restricting or hindering free commerce and competition and at preventing customers from entering establishments that offer basic goods and services that are described by law as public services will be considered violations of this decree and Cabinet Decree No 90 of 1971. Such actions will be banned in accordance with Article 290 of the Republic's political Constitution.

Violations of today's decree will be considered violations of Cabinet Decree No 90 of 1971, and will be punished in accordance with Article 30 of Cabinet Decree No 90, whereby licenses will be temporarily suspended, and, in cases of repeated violations, the commercial or industrial licenses will be revoked, depending on the case, based upon Clause E of Article 27 of the cabinet decree cited above.

The procedure for applying punishment established in today's decree and Cabinet Decree No 90 of 1971 is established in Chapter 1, title V of the Administrative Code's section on correctional procedures.

Decree No 13 of 16 May 1989, whereby public order measures in the areas of commercial and public service activities are adopted, went into effect at the moment of its publication.

Banks Not To Join

PA1605234889 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 16 May 89 p 3

[Text] A communique issued by National Banking Association President Edgardo Lasso Valdes today revealed that Panama City banks will not participate in the labor strike called by the opposition.

Lasso Valdes' announcement is based on the fact that the National Banking Association only sets the guidelines for the opening and closing hours for banking operations, as established by the National Banking Commission. The National Banking Commission regulates operations for Panama City's 118 banks.

Lasso Valdes said that the National Banking Commission is the only organization authorized to order a closure. This not being the case, he added; all banks will have to open tomorrow.

Further Reportage on Post-Election Reaction

FDP on 'Provocation'

PA1605201689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1930 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 16 May (EFE)—The Panamanian military believes that recent movements of U.S. troops in Panama are a "provocation," but "we will not fall for that," a Panama Defense Forces [FDP] major who asked to remain anonymous told EFE today.

"Everything they are doing is a provocation," the major said, referring to a large U.S. Army convoy that left Howard Air Force Base on the night of 14 May and traveled on Panamanian highways to a camp on the canal banks 40 km away.

When asked about the apparent passiveness with which the FDP have accepted these maneuvers, he pointed out that "we will not do anything to play into that provocation."

According to the officer, the convoy—comprising some 30 heavy vehicles and over 100 men—"violated the treaties" signed by the two countries in 1977 and that regulate—among other things—U.S. military movements in Panama.

The major pointed out the "violation" of the treaties is based on the fact that "there cannot be movements of this nature without a 24-hour prior notification to the combined board."

The officer added that, "in principle," convoys of this nature "should be escorted by an FDP motor unit," referring to the treaty article that mentions "escorts by Panamanian traffic patrols."

He considered it extremely "grave" that there had not been any notification, keeping in mind that some of the vehicles in the convoy warned they were carrying "explosives."

The major said "we advised the combined board when we erected checkpoints during the past elections."

However, he admitted that the treaties are ambiguous enough to allow the U.S. Army to use "areas of military coordination" without a "Panamanian presence," because a treaty article states that this would be acceptable "if time and circumstances make this possible."

"It would be different if they did the same outside these areas and traveled along the highway to Colon" (the country's second city on the Caribbean coast), the officer added.

The major also described as a "provocation" the arrival of U.S. reinforcements (1,881 "Marines" and soldiers) over the weekend, because, in his opinion, "they are not coming here to defend the canal, but for other purposes."

After the arrival of the first "Marines," a U.S. Army lieutenant colonel said they had come to Panama to step up security around U.S. military members and dependents residing in this country and to guarantee canal operations.

Before the reinforcements arrived, the U.S. Armed Forces had more than 10,400 troops in Panama on five military bases along the canal.

Endara on Strike; OAS Meeting

PA1605184889 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1722 GMT 16 May 89

[News conference by Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] leader Guillermo Endara, before leaving Paitilla Hospital in Panama City "today," to unidentified reporters—recorded]

[Text] [Endara] To all citizens of Panama and Latin America who have expressed nice wishes for my recovery and concern over my health, I wish to say, as I leave today, that I have recovered very well from the blow I received on 10 May. As always, I am ready to continue the struggle; I am a soldier of Panama's democracy and will continue to be one until my beloved Panama is a democratic country living in liberty and justice. [applause]

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

Someone is asking whether there will be a provisional junta, and my answer is that Panamanians voted on 7 May and clearly made their specific wish known. To me, that expression of the Panamanian people's will is a divine mandate, and I will under no circumstances accept anthing but the people's will. [applause]

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Endara] Tomorrow, we will stage a stoppage to show the world that Panamanians support Latin American democracies that also want a democracy in Panama. Throughout our campaign, we said that the people are watching us. We now say that the people are watching us and wish to help; they want democracy. The people are watching us, and this is why through our paralyzing activities tomorrow we will be telling everyone that the Panamanian people [words indistinct]

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Mexican communique?

I believe it is an excellent communique. I am very pleased that the Mexican Government, about which many people expressed doubt, is expressing the Mexican people's solidarity with the Panamanian people.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Endara] Tomorrow's activity is very important to our obtaining solidarity; it will show that Panamanians also support OAS actions.

[Reporter] Are your supporters still in jail?

[Endara] Imprisonment is one of the Panamanian Government's main ways to frighten people. Standing behind you is a youth who was jailed for 100 days, but his position on democratic and Arnulfist ideals were unchanged. [applause]

[Reporter] What is your opinion of the OAS meeting?

[Endara] We are expecting a massive expression of solidarity from the Latin American democracies. Sincerely, I believe tomorrow will be a great day in our history.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] General Noriega in this crisis?

[Endara] I cannot say; the Panamanian struggle will continue every day until we achieve our goal. We know this is the final stage. I can be absolutely sure the Panamanian people will attain freedom, justice, and democracy.

Desire for Noriega Departure

PA1605140589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1337 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Paris, 16 May (EFE)—Ricardo Arias Calderon, opposition first vice presidential candidate, said today that General Manuel Antonio Noriega "will be obliged to relinquish power because of local and international pressure, without having to resort to violence."

In statements to the Paris radio station Europe-1 of Paris, Arias Calderon said that two complementary factors will influence Gen Noriega's departure: one local, and the other international.

The leader of the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] explained that the first factor is the fact that Noriega "is repudiated by an unprecedented majority of our citizens, who refuse to live under a dictatorship."

The opposition politician said that the second factor stems from the fact that "for the first time, all democratic international public opinion, particularly in Latin America, has identified with the Panamanian problem."

Arias Calderon rejects any U.S. military intervention because, he said, "my country's opposition has ruled out domestic or foreign violence in defining Panama's democratic future."

"We have pledged to wage our struggle through peaceful resistance and domestic civil disobedience, and through diplomatic, political, and financial pressure abroad," Arias Calderon said.

Arias Calderon emphasized that his movement attaches "great importance" to the European Community's position regarding his country.

PALA Supports Annulment

PA1605151689 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 15 May 89 p 13

["Manifesto to the Nation" issued by the Labor Party in Panama City on 12 May]

[Text] The Labor Party (PALA), in accordance with its declared principles and out of respect and admiration for the loyalty and party spirit shown by our candidates and fellow party members, states to the public, other political parties, and the government its position regarding the recent election process that ended on 7 May.

We note that PALA was the first party to call for the formation of a new political alliance to replace the now extinct UNADE [National Democratic Union]. This was done to achieve a broad and democratic alliance, setting aside all sectarian interests and dogmatism, to join efforts in the struggle for our national liberation.

We always supported the election process and participated in the campaign enthusiastically, patriotically, and in good faith.

All corners of the country can attest to PALA's quick growth and the support and general acceptance won by our party in a brief time.

In each district the Panamanians know of our candidates' uprightness and great sympathy they have always had for the people. We would like to support this statement with reliable election figures, but neither the PALA, any other party, nor the TEP [Panama Electoral Tribunal] have this information. We can only reiterate that thousands of Panamanians supported and struggled for our candidates in every Panamanian city, town, and village.

We accept the TEP decision to annul the elections. The many irregularities invalidated what should have been civic and pure elections. There was no other choice in view of the disappearance of tally sheets, which made it impossible to proclaim any winners, either of the presidential or legislative races. It was a hard and difficult decision that PALA responsibly supports, despite the fact that such a measure harms many of our candidates who had the unquestionable support of their communities.

No one from COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] or ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] can boast of overwhelming support.

The delicate situation that has resulted from the elections demands serious and responsible attitudes and positions.

Above all, it requires that we set aside personal or group interests and abandon the futile search for scapegoats to justify what happened. The time calls for objectivity, selflessness, and a broadening of views. It is necessary to act seriously and responsibly to overcome the current issue and safeguard peace among Panamanians. We must achieve a spirit of unity and national reconciliation to face the future.

Panamanians can rest assured that PALA members will continue to talk [conversa, PALA campaign slogan] openly to our people, promoting an easy change that will bring about the necessary structural transformation, without anarchic, radical positions that would lead to a dead end.

To all our candidates, provincial boards, coordinators, and the thousands of PALA men and women who worked tirelessly to hold the PALA banner high: Our party's permanent recognition and appreciation.

Out of respect of all our fellow citizens and out of love for our fatherland, we advise the country that we are in permanent session to present to the Panamanian people, as soon as possible, the options that PALA members believe must be considered to overcome the situation stemming from the annulment of the elections.

For the Political Commission: Juan A. Medrano, Jose A. Alessandria, Nestor Tomas Guerra, Ramon Sieiro Murgas, Jack Cardoze Amador, Alberto Velasquez, Eduardo De Obaldia, Franklin Raymores, Nicolas Alvarado, Walter Coriat, Carlos Sinisterra, Arturo Diez, Jose Ma. Redondo, Alejandro Vernaza, Arturo McGowen, Carlos Clement, Armando Aizpurua A.

U.S. Invasion Advocates Decried

PA1605125089 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1750 GMT 15 May 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Some Panamanians who lack patriotism or who have been defeated by disinformation, which has diluted the national awareness of many, mistakenly believe that the way out of the country's political crisis is agreeing to and facilitating a U.S. military invasion. An invasion, they think, would allow an economic resurrection.

This false notion is frequently stimulated by fear of war, a lack of ideological convictions, a defeatist attitude, and an underestimation of the people's organizational ability and traditions. This feeling of defeat also has its roots in the surrender of some wealthy people who have not hesitated to switch sides by replacing the Panamanian flag with the flag of the foreign invader, despite all the humiliating consequences of this act.

While many Panamanians are preparing to defend the fatherland against a U.S. invasion and to fight the invader hand-to-hand throughout the country, there are some who believe the U.S. Marines will free them of their problems and will extend a hand in greeting as if they were old friends meeting again after a long time. Exactly 6 years ago, Grenada was attacked by U.S. troops who for several days shelled the part of the island where most of the peoples' resistance was concentrated. In Grenada there were also people who believed that the U.S. soldiers would organize things and help the people resolve their political differences by installing a democratic and harmonious government.

Things, however, were exactly the opposite. A few days after forcibly taking over the island, the U.S. Marines, drunk and on drugs, abused women and children, pillaged the country, and vented their rage on prisoners who became the victims of their excesses and depravations. Grenadians, who are humble and good people, were treated like primitive savages. Grenadians began to go through a nightmare from which they have not recovered.

The image of the kind and friendly U.S. soldiers who handed out candy and chocolates to children in the liberated countries after World War II is part of the myth created by Hollywood to popularize a military that became conceited through victory. In real life, however, where men fight for the fatherland and face colonialist invaders, there is no way for the people to accept the aggressors as brothers. All Panamanians—young and old, men and women, civilians and military men—should know that if a U.S invasion does take place, not only will the peaceful development of our society and economy be interrupted, but the flames of rebellion will rage through the entire continent, which is traumatized by poverty and by centuries of exploitation to which we are no exception.

While there are patriots willing to fight for this beloved country and to defend Panama's sovereignty, no aggressor can feel eager to fight these patriots face-to-face in the land of our great forefathers. Unity and the certainty of victory sustain those who will face the invasion. This is in stark contrast to the surrender of those who worship the invader and give up their freedom because they worship the dollar. History will prove this.

Commentary on Church Protests

PA1705014589 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2327 GMT 15 May 89

["Today in the World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Text] We thought that we were in Manila, the Manila of 1986, when the church played a decisive role in the destabilization of Ferdinand Marcos' regime. Churches yesterday opened their doors to cheer the profane. It was not a matter of praying to God for peace, or a matter of the humble faithful seeking spiritual solace to lift them above their problems. Churches yesterday, run by our dear and venerable Msgr Marcos Gregorio McGrath and his adviser Father Fernando Guardia, reached the [words indistinct]. The church was denying its statement and its direct participation; they were hiding and hurling accusations. Yesterday they said that the servile can come and hold their meetings and applaud their leaders. Does one go to church to applaud Ricardo Arias Calderon [ADOC first vice presidential candidate] and Billy Ford [ADOC second vice presidential candidate Guillermo], who are two absolute sinners, the two key protagonists in the current social exploitation and in the darkest episode in Panamanian history?

Oh, how distressed we are when those churches, those majestic churches replete with architectural beauty abandon their moral and pastoral duty to descend into the mud, into the dunghill of passions and politics. After this, after the church has turned into an instrument of destabilization that supports the United States, an instrument of George Bush, and an instrument of disinformation, good Catholics will have to pray at home. We will have to find strength in our firm religious convictions so that we will not be confused by those who profane God by using Him as an instrument for their own propaganda, and by those who go to church to distribute leaflets with vote counts and election results, which have nothing to do with the sanctity of the church, the Eucharist, or our love of God.

We Catholics, who also have the right to have our viewpoints respected, must feel deeply ashamed and distressed, because this situation has led the church to become an accomplice in the foreign aggression against a defenseless people. What a great contradiction. How deeply distressed I feel today when I see in the newspapers pictures of Billy Ford in a beautiful white shirt, accompanied by his wife Dora, entering a church—the hero, the man who was about to die.

The reports state that the other one, the presidential candidate [ADOC presidential candidate Guillermo Endara], is recovering from his serious injuries at Paitilla Hospital. He was released on the same day that he was admitted, returned to the Executive Hotel, and gave a news conference. ADOC forced him to return to the hospital to sustain the image of victim. Those who act like this are not behaving religiously, because God stands for sincerity, tolerance, pure magnificence, generosity that comes from the heart, and not Machiavellianism, or hypocrisy, or people speaking half-truths to then stab the people in the back. Our people need the Christian faith to continue onward, fulfilling their historic destiny. Today, more than ever, we feel close to God when we see Him profaned by politics and the servitude of these people born in Panama, but whose lives are far removed from their native roots.

Church Opposition Role Berated

PA1705023489 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 16 May 89 p 4

[Editorial: "A Church for Prayer or for Sedition?"]

[Text] The Panamanian Catholic Church hierarchy is promoting the use of its churches by opposition politicians, in collusion with the priests themselves, to carry out political meetings during mass.

This heretical action was most virulent last weekend. A great number of Catholic churches delivered direct messages, in some cases thinly disguised, and, in other cases, priests spoke out very subjectively and even passionately on Sunday's [7 May] elections.

It is not the first time that Catholic Churches have been used for party propaganda. To cite one example, the El Carmen Church has repeatedly been used by ADOC groups—primarily by the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]—for political rallies. This should not be allowed because it could more irreconcilably divide Panamanians, who are mostly Catholic. Worse still, the Catholic Church sides only with the ADOC, as if only ADOC members were Christian.

This partiality is so blatant that recently, in the town of Chorrera, parishioners chanted political slogans and waved white handkerchiefs and PDC flags inside the church.

It is necessary for the Catholic Church hierarchy to put a stop to this before it is too late. We must all lament the radical positions that cause irreconcilable differences between Christians, because churches should be used for prayer and not for seditious activities.

Weapon Ban Extended

PA1605191689 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 16 May 89 pp 14, 16

[Resolution 180 issued by Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari de Leon in Panama City on 15 May]

[Text] Resolution No 180 of 15 May 1989 to extend resolution No 177 of 6 April 1989.

The Ministry of Government and Justice, exercising its legal powers states

Whereas:

That through resolution No 177 of 6 April 1989, this ministry suspended the authorization to bear weapons between 7 April and 15 May 1989 because of the recent elections;

That the aim of that resolution is to maintain and guarantee a climate of absolute calm and peace in the nation;

That it is the duty of the Ministry of Government and Justice to take appropriate measures to guarantee the safety of citizens and their property;

Resolves:

First: To extend resolution No 177 of 6 April 1989; thus, authorization to bear firearms is suspended until minimum conditions to guarantee a climate of absolute calm are present in the nation.

Second: This resolution will be in effect upon its approval.

Be it promulgated and published

Rodolfo Chiari de Leon, minister of government and justice

Election Offenses Investigation

PA1705000089 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 May 89 p A-4

[From the "Names and Events" column]

[Text] Electoral Tribunal [TEP] Prosecutor Raul Lopez said that he will investigate and punish those responsible for offenses committed during and after the 7 May elections. Punishment will be applied regardless of political party affiliation in accordance with the law.

Foreign Embassy Demonstrations

PA1705045589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0148 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 16 May (EFE)—Some 40 young Panamanians belonging to the People's (Communist) Party demonstrated today in front of the Costa Rican and Venezuelan Embassies to protest statements made by the governments of these countries critical of Panama's regime.

Both Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez were instrumental in summoning a special OAS meeting tomorrow in Washington to examine the Panamanian crisis.

Several Latin American countries have asked that the OAS meeting issue a declaration criticizing the annulment of Panama's 7 May elections and the violence suffered by those opposed to the regime.

Panamanian Foreign Affairs Minister Jorge Ritter said that Panama will condemn U.S. "aggression" at the OAS meeting, evident in the arrival of new U.S. troops on the isthmus.

Manuel Lasso, leader of the young Panamanian communists, pointed out that "the Venezuelan and Costa Rican people would suffer the same fate in the event of a Yankee invasion."

According to the demonstrators, the possibility of an invasion has become even greater with the arrival of some 1,800 "marines" and U.S. Army soldiers sent by U.S. President George Bush to "protect" U.S. lives and interests in Panama.

The demonstrators, who protested peacefully, were carrying a sign that said: "Stop Yankee aggression against Panama."

Mass, trade union, and professional organizations today announced that they will stage a demonstration in front of OAS offices in Panama tomorrow "to condemn the web of dark schemes against the Panamanian people's sovereignty, which are being spun from within that organization."

Car Telephone Bug Warning

PA1605220389 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 16 May 89 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Alert to Citizens: Car Telephones Being Bugged"]

[Text] The car telephones installed by the "Electronica Comercial" company owned by Val de la Guardia and Augustito Boyd have all been bugged. "Cassettes" have been circulating. We warn this company's subscribers to be very careful.

Commentary Criticizes Venezuelan President

PA1605192589 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 15 May 89

[Station commentary: "The Shortest Honeymoon: The 100 Days of Carlos Andres Perez"]

[Text] The report card for the first 100 days of [Venezuelan President] Carlos Andres Perez' government is very unfavorable, according to representatives from all sectors of Venezuelan society. The government, inaugurated on 2 February in a feast of democracy that included presidents from 25 countries, including the U.S. vice president as well as Cuban President Fidel Castro, attempted to strengthen Perez's Latin American leadership. However, Carlos Andres Perez' honeymoon was very short-lived. The new government's economic package—which followed IMF mandates to obtain a new flow of funds—destroyed the economy of the country's neediest and unleashed a storm from all sectors of society.

Venezuela was shocked for a whole week by a wave of protests and repercussions that led to the death of an undetermined number of people—over 500 according to international observers—looting, thousands of injuries, and over $200 million in property losses.

Perez' problems are not over yet. On 18 May, the country will face an unprecedented strike when all labor unions will take part in a general strike to protest the economic measures Carlos Andres Perez will impose on Venezuelans at the order of international banks. Carlos Andres Perez' submission to the international banks, although it has been fateful for the Venezuelan people, brought his government a $5.8 billion loan for the next 3 years, according to statements by Planning Minister Miguel Rodriguez, the mastermind of Carlos Andres Perez' economic plan.

In the few months of his mandate, Carlos Andres Perez has not only been the executioner of the Venezuelan people. In the international arena, he has been the submissive pawn of the big-stick policy imposed by President Bush on the Panamanian people and government. It was Perez who convinced his Peruvian friend Alan Garcia to issue a statement against Panama and its revolutionary process. Carlos Andres Perez was also the one who called all Latin American and Caribbean presidents to sign a document against Panama. The leading role played by the Venezuelan president, and his megalomania of believing he is predestined to rule our continent, will shortly lead him to request that Venezuela be admitted as the 103d member of the Nonaligned Movement.

In 1983, Guyana vetoed Venezuela's entrance into this organization due to the border problems the two nations were facing. The Nonaligned Movement is a forum unknown to Perez. The group has different procedures, and submission to the U.S gendarme is not well looked upon. Therefore, it can be anticipated that Venezuela's obsequiousness to U.S. interests will be taken into account when it comes time to make a decision on Venezuela's entry as a full member of the organization. We predict Venezuela will remain an observer at the Nonaligned Movement for a long time.

Argentina

Alfonsin Rejects Ministers' Resignations

PY1605144489 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1426 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 May (NA)—President Raul Alfonsin today instructed Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia to contact President-elect Carlos Menem and to set up a meeting between them. It has also been officially reported that Alfonsin has rejected the resignations of the members of his cabinet.

Caputo Denies Resignation

PY1605224989 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2234 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 May (DYN)—Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today said that the electoral defeat on 14 May "is a very important fact that should prompt the governing party to reflect." Caputo also denied having resigned his post.

Approached at Ezeiza international airport by the media Caputo simply said: "I have not resigned."

The foreign minister left for Washington where he will participate in an urgent meeting organized by the OAS to discuss the cancellation of the recent elections in Panama.

Caputo said: "We uphold the principle of nonintervention and noninterference, as well as the right to self-determination and free expression of the people."

Early Turn Over of Power Ruled Out

PY1605233189 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2108 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 May (DYN)—President Raul Alfonsin and President-elect Carlos Menem have stated their firm opposition to moving the date for the transfer of power forward. However, the proposal has generated different reactions in the lower political echelons.

Today Alfonsin held a 2-hour meeting with his cabinet and the subject of moving the date forward "wasn't mentioned" according to presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez who, on several occasions emphasized that the current chief of state will complete his term of office, as is appropriate, on 10 December.

Moreover, Menem fully dismissed such a possibility during several interviews and asserted that "the Constitution is quite clear; President Alfonsin must complete his 6 year mandate."

The Peronist leader and future president said that by no means is he willing to "violate" the Constitution. He asserted that he has "not discussed the subject and does not intend to violate the law." He reiterated that he will assume the presidency on 10 December and no sooner.

The controversial subject was discussed on various occasions by the political leadership, before and after the elections, and it seems that most agree that the only way to consolidate the republican and democratic system is by fully respecting the Constitution.

However, Leopoldo Moreau, president of the Chamber of Deputies and chairman of the Buenos Aires Province branch of the Radical Civic Union [UCR], yesterday publicly said that it was possible and feasible to discuss the early turn over of power. He even mentioned 12 October as the possible date for this act.

Moreau said that such a possibility is subject to an agreement between Radicals and Peronists and to a formal agreement between legislators, who are people's representatives.

Moreau's statement had large repercussions and gave rise to speculations because he is one of the Radical leaders closest to President Alfonsin. He also presides over the Chamber of Deputies.

However, today Moreau himself—after meeting with President Alfonsin and Cesar Jaroslavsky, president of the radical bloc of deputies—minimized the repercussions of his statement.

He explained that "it was a personal opinion in which I pointed out that among all the alternatives one could not dismiss the possibility of moving the date forward. However, the cabinet met today and President Alfonsin has instructed his ministers to draw up proposals to govern until 10 December."

Asked his opinion about Moreau's statement, Jose Manzano, president of the Justicialist bloc of deputies, said that he was opposed to "violating the law and the Constitution because this opens the door to those who will then violate the law to their own benefit."

However, he left open the possibility of negotiating an early turn over of power only if the governing party makes an official proposal based on special reasons caused by the socio-economic crisis. Were this to happen "we would study the possibility with great interest," Manzano added.

Labor and Social Security Minister Ideler Tonelli also gave his opinion on the issue, stating that he considered it "convenient" to move the date foward but also believed it "perfectly practical" to keep the 10 December date.

Minister Tonelli's statement to the media was superseded by the cabinet's decision, lead by President Alfonsin.

Former presidential hopeful Eduardo Angeloz, in turn, reiterated his firm opposition to any alternative not established by the Constitution.

Peronist Deputy Italo Luder viewed the issue from quite a different point of view: the possibility of both the president and the vice president resigning.

Luder brought up this possibility during a television program last night in which Radical Senator Fernando de la Rua also took part. De la Rua voiced his opposition to such a possibility.

Luder explained that he was not in favor of the idea; rather, he was only explaining what constitutional mechanisms were valid. However, De la Rua asked him in an annoyed tone of voice "why are you saying this now? It will only confuse people. Nobody is going to resign and President Alfonsin will complete his term in office."

All these speculations vanished after Alfonsin and Menem said they were strongly opposed to an early turn over of power.

Menem told the media that he is waiting for an invitation from Alfonsin to begin discussions on the transition, which should "be carried out in keeping with the national Constitution, that establishes that the presidential term lasts 6 years, which will be completed on 10 December."

Alfonsin ordered Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia to arrange meetings with the future government in order to prepare formal and institutional negotiations.

Above and beyond his personal contacts with Menem, Alfonsin wants to establish "links" between the outgoing and incoming administrations in order to discuss specific subjects within each field of government. Alfonsin instructed his ministers for 2 hours today to this end.

According to the president-elect, whatever contribution the Justicialist Party may make to the current administration will imply "no commitments" as far as the state decisionmaking process goes.

Menem explained that the issue that worries him most during this transition period is: "The economy, especially the crisis that is hurting the workers, the salaried people, and the small- and medium-sized enterprises, and the terrible financial straits that the provinces must endure."

The president-elect explained that "Justicialist Party teams will be in permanent contact with the government in order to receive information and adopt positions as we become acquainted with the overall situation in each field of government."

In an interview that the morning newspaper PAGINA 12 published today, and in subsequent statements, the governor of La Rioja Province, voiced his desire to engage in a "fluent, sustained, and permament dialogue with the current administration."

Deputy Jose Luis Manzano, president of the Justicialist Party bloc in the Chamber of Deputies, also said that the economy is the main issue during the transition period. Manzano warned that he will not accept any adjustment "whose burden will have to be borne by the workers, the small- and medium-sized enterprises, and in general by the businessmen who engage in productive activities and by the regional economies."

Manzano called for an all-out battle against "deficit of state enterprises" and demanded the implementation of financial measures "capable of reestablishing credit for enterprises at rates that are more in tune with the nature of their activities."

Deputy Eduardo Bauza, a well-known interlocutor of Economy Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese, will soon get in touch with provincial economy ministers in order to gather information and proposals which will be reconciled in order to negotiate with the current administration.

Menem Interviewed on Falklands, Economy

PM1705091689 London BBC Television Network in English 2130 GMT 16 May 89

[Interview with Argentina's president-elect Carlos Menem (in Spanish with superimposed English translation) by reporter Chris Lowe in Catamarca Province, monitored in progress in the framework of BBC "Newsnight;" no date given—recorded]

[Text] [Lowe] The governor of La Rioja had not traveled far—just to the neighboring Province of Catamarca. His main purpose was to visit the cathedral to kiss the feet of Mary the Virgin of the Valley of Catamarca, to give thanks for his election victory: for him a moving moment. This is a fiercely Catholic country, and Menem—born a Muslim—converted to Catholicism, though it's not quite clear when. His wife was born and remains a Muslim. And so to mass and a service with a distinctly local flavor.

The service over, Mr Menem gave "Newsnight" his first formal television interview since his victory. What did he make of Sir Geoffrey Howe's statement yesterday that although Menem's earlier alarmist remarks about the Falklands had been tempered recently, Britain must still remain watchful.

[Menem] I understand that the British foreign secretary is badly informed, and because he is badly informed, maybe that's why he's alarmed. I have not changed my statements. I continue to say that it's necessary for the British crown to recognize Argentina's sovereignty over the islands, and from that point there would be no inconvenience in starting to discuss the future of these islands and the archipelagos in the South Atlantic. There's no problem in having a dialogue with Britain to stop the state of hostilities if Britain recognizes the sovereignty of Argentina over the islands and the South Atlantic.

I don't see why Sir Geoffrey should be alarmed by my statements. The rest stems from the official position which says that Menem wanted a clash in order to recover the islands, but I never said that. I did refer to the need for Argentina to resort to all international fora to obtain recognition for its legitimate rights to the islands.

[Lowe] Is there any pressure that you can put on Britain other than simply trying to talk at the United Nations and other international fora?

[Menem] The pressures that come from the resolutions that were dictated in the international organizations and, more particularly, the UN. Since 1965, it has said that it's necessary to decolonize the territories colonized by some of the world powers, and among these the Malvinas held in British hands. This UN resolution and all the resolutions that were dictated over the last few years are a powerful element of pressure to continue to insist about Britain and this subject before these organizations.

[Lowe] As a newly-elected president, would there be something to be said for you trying to see Mrs Thatcher; because as things stand at the moment it does Argentina no good, it does Britain no good, and it does the islands no good to have this crisis going on and on. Would it be a good idea for you maybe to telephone her or arrange to see her at the United Nations—something like that?

[Menem] I would have no problem in having a dialogue with Mrs Thatcher. I think it's not serious to call her on... over the phone. Maybe we could have some sort of encounter at the UN headquarters. That would be an exellent idea because we could start from this basis: the secession of hostilities on our part; and on the part of the British, the recognition of our sovereignty over the islands. On this basis, there's no inconvenience in talking to Mrs Thatcher.

[Lowe] If at the end of your 6-year term in office, you were able to sit here and say to me that your greatest achievement—what it would have been—would you like it to be getting the Malvinas back?

[Menem] Of course.

[Lowe] Can I move on to other things? Very briefly, you do not become president until December. Are you going to find this a rather frustrating time?

[Menem] It's a period of transition which is very long and which can further deteriorate the chaotic situation Argentina's going through, especially in the economic and financial field; but the Constitution spells out very clearly the president's mandate. It is for 6 years, and we must follow this constitutional mandate.

[Lowe] But would you rather be in a situation where the Constitution was like it is in some other countries where tomorrow... today, you are president, you are now in charge?

[Lowe] Of course. We are proposing a reform of the constitution, and maybe we will include a clause and modifications to this effect that would shorten the president's mandate. We think 6 years is too much: Four years is the ideal time, but with the possibility of reelection.

[Lowe] You have been very careful to lower expectations: People expect a great deal of you. You have made it clear, particularly with the economy, that it could be 2 or 3 years before you could start to achieve changes in the economy that you want to see. Do you think people will be patient enough?

[Menem] Yes. I trust in my people, and I have told them throughout the whole campaign that it is necessary to have this delay in order that Argentina can start working again, and I know they have responded with massive support on the 14th of May. And obviously, this means the Argentines are ready to make more sacrifices in order to find a solution to the country's very serious problems that today burden the Argentine Republic.

[Lowe] Some people have compared you now with President Reagan when he began. People thought he was more of a Hollywood person and not a serious politician: He proved them wrong. Do you feel you can do the same?

[Menem] Yes, I will prove that I am a serious president and that we will do things right. I don't want to be compared with Ronald Reagan: He had his own political style, I have mine. We will change Argentina's history, and we will return to Argentina the splendor we had before, and we will give Argentina the possibility of finding a privileged place in the nations of Latin America and the world.

[Lowe] Carlos Menem, 24 hours after winning power in Argentina. He's clearly a man of the people: Now he must prove that he's also a man for the people.

Speaks on Debt, Falklands

PY1605223589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2046 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aries 16 May (TELAM)—President-elect Carlos Menem said this afternoon that "he will not travel to the United States for the time being." He made it clear, however, that should he go to the United States it would be "just to meet" with President George Bush.

During a news conference with foreign correspondents and local journalists, Menem said that he "is not thinking about breaking relations with the IMF," and that he will negotiate with foreign debt creditors "taking into account the country's need to grow."

Concerning the Malvinas, Menem reiterated that he has no problems with discussing the issue "with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at a UN session, but I will do so only if she recognizes Argentine's sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands which have been illegally occupied."

The news conference was held at the Las Acacias ranch, owned by the Capozzolo family. The ranch is located at the 81 km marker of national highway no 5, in Olivera, Lujan District.

Called 'Crazy,' 'Unpredictable'

PM1605144989 London BBC Television Network in English 2130 GMT 15 May 89

[Interview with political writer Jacobo Timerman by reporter Chris Lowe, incorporating comments by Manuel Mora y Arujo, pollster to President-elect Carlos Menem, monitored in progress following a report on the Peronist victory in the elections; no place, date given—recorded]

[Text] [Lowe] So, after 13 years, Peronism is back in power in Argentina. For a few hours tonight, they can celebrate, and forget the awful problems that beset this nation. But one thing is absolutely clear: They've elected a man who will ruffle a few feathers both at home and abroad. He's an extraordinary character.

It's true that last night as he assumed the mantle of president-elect, he was dressed for the part. It's not always the case. He's known to have a fondness for young women and fast cars, and for a man in his 50's, his vanity seems boundless. But he appeals to millions almost like royalty: He represents something to aspire to.

[Arujo] Carlos Menem is a charismatic candidate: He's a very sympathetic man; he has a kind of a conciliatory appeal; he's not aggressive; not a man of conflict—so many people likes him [as heard].

[Timerman] Menem is absolutely crazy. I was in jail with him in a military prison during the dictatorship: He is really unpredictable, really unpredictable. His first attitude after he was elected candidate was to run to Syria to talk with Hafiz al-Asad. In'86 when the United States bombed Libya—in which I disagree, of course—but he proposed that Argentina cut off rela... diplomatic relations with United States: that means to commit suicide, practically. So he's a dangerous person. Now, is the moderate Peronist... are they going to be able to control him? I think not.

[Lowe] It's true that Menem's victory should not disguise a power struggle within the Peronist movement. There are the traditionalists who are fiercely loyal to the nationalistic approach and the authoritarian tendencies of Peron himself—that's where Menem belongs; and there's the modern wing that seeks to make the party more open, more democratic—more in the guise of a European socialist party. And moderates cite as evidence the way Menem emerged as their candidate through a system of primary elections: They claim the party has changed forever and will insure that Menem does not turn the clock back, despite his overwhelming victory last night.

[Arujo] Peronist party has produced strong evidences of his [as heard] transformation into a democratic party. The internal, the primary elections were really very democratic in the last... during the last years. Many provinces governed by Peronists are very democratic—pluralistic, public liberties, and, well, a general climate of democracy—so I don't think we should expect a reversion of the democratic trends.

[Timerman] We don't know if they really have changed because they never succeeded—the Peronists—in having an organized political party: It's always a kind of movement—they call themselves a movement—a movement in which you can be a Peronist communist, a Peronist Nazi, a Peronist fascist, a Peronist Mussolini, a Peronist of the right, the center, and the left, and whatever you can imagine.

Parcel Bomb Explodes Seriously Wounding 2

PY1605135489 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1217 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Cordoba, 16 May (NA)—A powerful explosive, presumably of foreign manufacture, wrapped up as a parcel has seriously injured the son of a justice of the peace and his wife, who received the parcel at the bookshop that they own.

According to police sources, the victims have been identified as Carlos Arroyo, 32, and his wife, Analia Griffa, 37, who have been interned in the Domingo Funes Regional Hospital, which has reported that their condition is serious.

The explosion tore off Arroyo's right hand and seriously lacerated his left one. His stomach is also seriously injured.

His wife lost an eye, while the other one is seriously injured.

The serious incident occurred yesterday morning at 373 Sarmiento Street in the city of Cosquin while the couple were opening a small parcel that had presumably been sent to them by a printing shop.

Police experts, who are working under the orders of Federal Judge Gustavo Becerra Ferrer, believe that it was a very powerful explosive that is not manufactured in the country.

The fact that Carlos Arroyo, son of Cosquin's justice of peace, cannot be questioned is hindering the investigation. The explosion seriously damaged the bookshop and neighboring premises.

The Arroyos are not known to have any important political or union contacts or activities.

Police believe that they have been victims of a parcel bomb, although they admitted that they do not know from where it came.

Bolivia

COB Plans Rally in Front of U.S. Embassy

PY1705021289 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] The Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB] will hold a rally tomorrow in front of the U.S. Embassy at 1100 to express support and solidarity for the Panamanian people, according to COB Secretary Carlos Camargo.

[Begin Camargo recording] We are organizing a series of events within the framework of activities of the Bolivian Committee of Solidarity with Peoples [Comite Boliviano de Solidaridad con los Pueblos, COBOSOL],to which the COB belongs. Among these activities is the visit we have paid to the Panamanian ambassador to express the solidarity of the Bolivian people and workers for the just cause defended by Panamanian Government and people.

We have also organized a meeting of solidarity at 1100 on Wednesday, May 17, in front of the U.S. Embassy. We want to note that it will be an extremely peaceful demonstration, we only want to express the solidarity of the Bolivian people and workers for Panama. Therefore, we believe that representatives of the various sectors of the Bolivian society should attend this event. [end recording]

Camargo noted that the politicians who have protested the U.S. intervention will probably attend the rally.

In this regard, Camargo recalled the statement made by Guillermo Bedregal and even by the current foreign minister.

[Begin Camargo recording] Even the government, through statements by personalities close to it, such as Mr Bedregal, has said that they disagree with U.S. intervention in Panamanian domestic affairs. Therefore, we also extend our invitation to them to participate in this meeting. This is one of the activities we are carrying out. Later, we will send a message to the foreign minister to request that the Bolivian delegation to the OAS meeting, also starting on 17 May, not fall into the U.S. trap. The U.S. Government has already prepared a resolution condemning an alleged dictatorship in Panama. All they seek is to conceal a U.S. hegemonic presence in Panama for many more years. In other words, what the U.S. Government seeks is to overlook the Torrijos-Center Accords. Therefore, the Bolivian delegation to the OAS must take into account that the problem is not only an exclusive problem to Panama, but it could also have a decisive influence on the Bolivian problem. This is why we believe that the right to self-determination should be respected, and the Panamanians should be allowed to elect their own government and their own democracy. We also want to voice our concern over the fact that the government has still not officially taken any position regarding this problem. [end recording]

Debt Renegotiation Reached With United States

PY1605132889 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The U.S. and Bolivian Governments signed an accord on 15 May for rescheduling the $56-million debt that Bolivia owes to the U.S. Government. The rescheduling will follow the terms established by the Paris Club. Bolivia will thus reduce payments on its debt over the next 4 years because the $56-million debt will be repaid over the period 15 May 1991 to 15 November 1995, at an interest rate of 5.2-percent.

Planning Minister Fernando Romero is grateful for the deferential treatment that has permitted the rescheduling of the Bolivian debt and the reduction of our financial burden.

U.S. Ambassador Robert Gelbard has said that the decision made by the Paris Club members reflects their recognition for the work and efforts by Bolivia, which formulated one of the world's most successful programs. Gelbard said that the current Bolivian Government, and also the next democratic government, will continue to receive support.

Minister Romero reported that at the Paris Club meeting in November 1988, Bolivia reached accords over the debt owned to 9 foreign governments for a total of $222 million. He added that Bolivia will begin talks with the FRG seeking to renegotiate a $30-million debt.

Brazil

Sarney Congratulates Argentina's Menem

PY1705124289 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Brazilian President Jose Sarney has congratulated Argentine President-elect Carlos Menem. In a letter addressed to Menem, Sarney expresses his hope that Argentina and Brazil will continue to tread the path of economic and commercial integration that was undertaken in 1985.

Sarney adds that the elections that led Menem to victory reflect the noble desires of all Argentines.

Soviet Air Force Commander Decorated

PY1705152289 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 May 89 p 7

[Text] Brasilia—Marshall Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yefimov, commander in chief of the Soviet Air Force and deputy minister of defense, on 15 May said that it is not yet possible to talk about the signing of a Soviet-Brazilian military accord, but he stressed that a possible treaty on the space field should be subject to the peaceful use of the rocket launching technology, and that the initiative should be taken by Brazil.

Aeronautics Minister Octavio Moreira Lima, who yesterday awarded Yefimov the decoration of the Order of the Aeronautical Merit, reiterated Brazil's interest in the cooperation in the space field. Yefimov is the first Soviet General [rank as published] to officially visit Brazil.

Yefimov said that his visit does not have any immediate objectives, and that it aims at establishing friendly relations between the Armed Forces of the two countries. Quoting a Russian saying, Yefimov justified his visit by noting that "seeing something for oneself is better than listening to 100 reports about it."

Yefimov declined to talk about political issues because, he said, they involve the sovereignty of both countries. He said, however, that his visit was made possible by the changes that Mikhail Gorbachev is introducing in the USSR.

Minister Moreira Lima, who reiterated Brazil's interest in an accord, stressed that the Soviets have "valuable contributions to make." Brazil has met with restrictions in the transfer of space technology because Western countries fear that the satellite launching vehicle (VLS), which is being developed by the Aeronautics Ministry, can be transformed into an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

Moreira Lima, however, stressed that the Brazilian space program has no military objectives and that Brazil is not planning to develop a hydrogen bomb.

Social Democratic Party President Resigns

PY1705040389 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 16 May 89

[Summary] Jarbas Passarinho, president of the Social Democratic Party [PDS], has resigned because he does not want to participate in the campaign of PDS presidential candidate Paulo Maluf.

New Amazon Military Command Chief Installed

PY1505184989 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 May 89 p 5

[Summary] During a ceremony presided over by Army Minister General Antenor de Santa, Cruz Abreu was installed as commander of the Amazon Military Command. Gen Santa Cruz Abreu is replacing General Mario Orlando Sampaio Ribeiro who was assigned chief of the Army Engineering and Communications Department in Brasilia.

January Foreign Reserves Position Reported

PY1205032389 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 May 89 p 35

[Text] Brasilia—Brazilian foreign cash reserves reached the $6.15-billion mark in January. This figure represents an increase of nearly $800 million over the December foreign reserve position of $5.35 billion. Two factors contributed to the increase in the country's international resources in January: the anticipated closing of foreign exchange contracts by exporters, and the 17-percent appreciation of the dollar at the time the Summer Plan was launched.

Price Freeze Lifted on Medicines, Spirits

PY1205235489 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] The Finance Ministry today lifted the price freeze on medicines, airplanes, car rentals, and alcoholic beverages except for beer and sugarcane brandy.

Chile

Pinochet Congratulates Argentina's Menem

PY1605030089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet today sent a message of congratulations to Argentine President-elect Carlos Saul Menem for his victory in yesterday's elections.

The message is addressed to Menem, governor of La Rioja Province, and reads:

Dear Governor: On behalf of the Chilean people, my government, and myself, I wish to express our sincere congratulations for your victory in yesterday's presidential elections.

I also want to voice my hopes that our two countries may move toward a fruitful rapprochement that will help strengthen the bilateral integration and cooperation process that was greatly enhanced after my meeting in 1974 with President Juan Domingo Peron, and in 1975 with President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron.

Please accept our good will and wishes of success for you and the Argentine people. Sincerely yours.

Signed: President Pinochet.

The content of the message was disclosed by the Press Secretariat of the Presidency.

Foreign Minister on Relations With Argentina

PY1605222989 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2029 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 16 May (TELAM-ANSA)—Speaking about the Argentine presidential elections on 14 May Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz today stated that Argentine President-elect Carlos Menem "was one of the advocates of the peace and friendship treaty" that Chile and Argentina signed to end the border conflict over the southern area of the Beagle Channel.

Asked about the future of Argentine-Chilean relations after the victory of the Justicialist Party Errazuriz said: "It is a positive development, because in the past the Justicialist Party has expressed interest in improving relations with Chile."

He recalled that Menem had supported the Peace and Friendship Treaty and stressed the attitude of several governors of the Justicialist Party "who have been helping to improve bilateral relations."

Foreign Minister Rejects UN Observer Presence

PY1605192089 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Chile will not accept another United Nations human rights observer, Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz has said. Such action is not justified during this phase of transition and normality that we are living in Chile, Errazuriz added.

The foreign minister said that though Chile is willing to cooperate with the permanent international human rights organizations, yesterday it reported its decision to the United Nations secretary general.

Errazuriz held a news conference, in the presence of many foreign journalists, in the Diego Portales building. He evaluated Chilean foreign policy over the past few months.

Fish Exports Total $835 Million in 1988

PY1705010589 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 6 May 89 pp A1, 15

[Summary] Valparaiso—Fishing Under Secretary Roberto Cabezas Bello has reported that fish exports totaled $835 million in 1988, that fish products totaled 1.4 million tons in 1988, and that Chile is the world's leading fishmeal exporter.

Colombia

M-19 Commander Supports Barco's Peace Efforts

PA1605230889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] This afternoon there was a clash between the Army and the M-19 [19 April Movement] in Palestina Municipality in Huila Department. Initial reports indicate that two people were killed and many weapons seized. Two hours prior to the clash, "24 Hours" newscast reporter Miguel Angel Flores spoke with Marco Chalita, commander of the M-19 column involved in the clash. Flores asked Chalita whether he sides with the majority of the M-19 or whether he is a dissident. Much to the reporter's surprise, Chalita spoke favorably of President Barco and Carlos Pizarro Leongomez, saying that a dialogue should be held with the drug traffickers.

[Begin recording] [Flores] Yesterday, at an M-19 camp in the Huila mountains, I asked Marco Chalita if paramilitary action against the M-19 could become an obstacle to peace. Chalita responded that the M-19 is even willing to negotiate with drug traffickers to prevent a dirty war and to preserve the national economy. Chalita also said that the Colombian Army should not seek these talks on their own, adding that he believes that President Barco has exercised skill and clear thinking in his handling of the current process. He said, however, that there are differences that must be overcome. Chalita was vague and uncertain when responding to a question on when the M-19 will demobilize.

[Chalita] A demobilization is impossible within the established deadlines, because certain steps must be taken first, and I do not believe that they can be taken within a very short period of time. [end recording]

ELN Guerrillas Blow Up Pacifico Oil Pipeline

PA1605215889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 May 89

[Report by Soraya Caicedo]

[Text] A few hours ago, the Army of National Liberation [ELN] occupied California municipality, north of Bucaramanga, Santander Department. The same rebel group carried out another terrorist attack yesterday against a section of the Pacifico Oil Pipeline. The action took place in Chambimbal corregimiento, 5 km from Buga municipality. The attack took place at 2100 at the section of the Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] oil pipeline crossing El Palmar Hacienda. Residents got up early to clean up the spilled oil following the explosion, which destroyed 4 meters of the pipeline.

The oil pipeline usually transports refined fuels such as ACPM, gasoline, and aviation fuel from the Barrancabermeja refinery, which supplies oil to the southwestern part of the country. When the explosion occurred, aviation fuel was being pumped. Although the damage has not yet been assessed, Ecopetrol workers have stopped pumping over 6,000 barrels of oil.

[Unidentified Ecopetrol official] It is still impossible to give any figures on the amount of oil that was lost. Our figures will have to include the oil that was lost and repairs. [end recording]

No subversive group has yet claimed responsibility for the bombing, although it is believed that the action was carried out by the ELN. This is the third attack against the Pacifico Oil Pipeline this year. The first two atttacks took place in La Cumbre and Mulalo in Valle del Cauca Department.

Ecuador

Monetary Board Increases Weekly Devaluation Rate

PA1205151189 Paris AFP in Spanish 0745 GMT 11 May 89

(Text] Quito, 10 May (AFP)— The Monetary Board today unified the Central Bank dollar exchange rate with the export exchange rate. It also announced a 20-percent weekly devaluation of the sucre. These decisions seek to strengthen the balance of payments, international monetary reserves, and Ecuadoran exports.

The Monetary Board also reduced from 10 to 5 percent the difference between the value of the dollar obtained from private sector exports and the value of the dollar sold to importers. The new decisions by the Monetary Board mean a 3-percent increase in the price importers will pay for the dollar—521.85 sucres instead of the 506.63 set last August. Exporters will benefit by getting 497 sucres per dollar instead of the 458.38 they were receiving, thus getting a 9-percent increase.

In addition, the Monetary Board increased from 2.5 to 3 Sucres the weekly devaluation rate. This is a 20-percent rise in the devaluation rate that has been in effect since August 1988, when the government implemented several economic adjustments. These adjustments included the Central Bank's renewed collection of income generated by exports.

This devaluation, "in addition to helping private sector trade, will have a positive effect on the income of institutions that receive revenues from oil exports," the Monetary Board noted.

Government Rejects Pressure To Adjust Fares

PA1305182189 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Assistant Government Secretary Dr Luis Felix Lopez asserted today that the government does not accept any pressure from the Ecuadoran transportation sector, which has requested an increase the public transportation fares. The government official reported that the National Traffic Council's technical committee is currently analyzing the transportation sector's request and that the results will be known next week.

[Begin recording] [Lopez] The transportation sector requested an increase in the fares, and the National Traffic Council—the respective commission within the council—especially the council's technical team, will analyze the situation.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Lopez] The information has not been received, but definite results are expected next week.

[Reporter] What is your opinion about the ultimatum?

[Lopez] I think the ultimatum is out of context and that President Borja has been quite clear when he invited all the country's sectors to a dialogue, which will help us find a solution.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] with the transportation sector to seek an agreement?

[Lopez] I have talked with several members of the transportation sector, which involves many groups. There is interurban transportation, interprovince transportation, taxis—I have talked with all of them and know their viewpoints.

[Reporter] Have any of their viewpoints [words indistinct] the latest devaluation, the increase in fuel prices, the eradication of the [words indistinct] law?

[Lopez] These requests do not concern the transportation sector. In other words, the National Traffic Council, over which I preside, cannot issue a ruling on these issues.

[Reporter] But the government can?

[Lopez] Yes. The government enforced the measures it considered convenient, and the public officials who authorized the measures (?must present a report.)

[Reporter] Will the government give in to the transportation sector's pressure?

[Lopez] Under no circumstances. The government will not hold dialogues under pressure. The government is a responsible government, and the president of the republic is a democrat par excellence. Consequently, all the sectors' views will be taken into consideration within the framework of what has been called a national agreement.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Lopez] Nothing can justify an inadequate increase in fares. The increase, if it is ever authorized, will be approved [words indistinct] according to the analysis carried out by the National Traffic Council. [end recording]

Paraguay

Government To 'Strongly Protest' U.S. in Panama

PY1605220789 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 16 May 89 p 12

[Text] Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana, who this afternoon will travel to Washington to attend the OAS council meeting, has released the government's position regarding the Panamanian crisis. He said that the Paraguayan Government "will strongly protest" any U.S. military intervention in Panama, and that it will advocate a negotiated solution to the crisis.

After meeting with President Andres Rodriguez, Argana stated: "I have received instructions on the position we will take. We support the principles of self-determination. We also support the faithful compliance with the Carter-Torrijos Treaty."

"We will analyze the possibility of entrusting a Latin American president with the negotiations. The negotiator should have the adequate moral prestige and enough authority to reach an interesting solution in which the sovereign decision of the Panamanian people to build their own future can be protected. He should also find a solution to resolve the tense situation between Panama and the United States," Argana added.

Argana said: "We are not seeking to replace Noriega because that would mean violating the principle of nonintervention, which is the basis for honorable negotiations. It is obvious that the presence of General Noriega has hindered U.S.-Panamanian relations.

"I believe that a negotiated settlement should be reached. Taking into account that we are free nations, the use of force should be completely ruled out. Paraguay is ready to sanction and to strongly protest the use of force."

Argana said that during his visit to the United States "he will hold important meetings to disseminate information about the current Paraguayan situation."

Armed Forces Officers Promotions Planned

PY1205151489 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 12 May 89 p 4

[Excerpts] Breaking with the tradition of promoting officers on 31 December, a tradition that has been observed for over 10 years, the Senate yesterday decided to approve the list of 37 Armed Forces high-ranking officers. They will be promoted on 15 May, on the same day of the inauguration of President-elect General Andres Rodriguez.

The promotion of Brigadier General Otello E. Carpinelli caused heated arguments during the closed-door Senate's session.

Finally, all the promotions proposed in the list sent to the Senate by the Executive Branch were approved. [passage omitted]

Senator Explains Promotions

PY1405033689 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 13 May 89 p 5

[Excerpt] "The unanimous decision was made primarily to reward the Armed Forces' action of 3 February 1989," said Senator Mario Mallorquin of the Colorado Party in reference to the promotions granted in accordance with constitutional regulations to 37 officers of the Armed Forces.

Mallorquin does not believe that the promotion issue was discussed in a hasty manner, "as do some people, who think that the Senate was taken by suprise by the debate over the promotion of some generals whose backgrounds have been questioned." [passage omitted]

Laino Emphasizes Need To Implement Democracy

PY1605122189 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 15 May 89 p 8

[Text] Concerning today's presidential inauguration ceremony, [Authentic Radical Liberal Party President] Dr Domingo Laino emphasized, "in the first place," the commemoration of our fatherland's independence. Laino said: "Through the May Revolution, Paraguay became independent. It stopped being a colony and actually became an independent nation. An autonomous, independent system, which was used as a reference by scholars and is now frequently used as a reference by sociologists, was inaugurated by dictator Jose Gaspar Rodriguez de Francia [who ruled Paraguay from 1814 to 1840] and the Lopez's [Carlos Antonio, the father, and Francisco Solano, the son, who were the first two constitutional presidents and who governed Paraguay from 1840 to 1870]. The dependency theory [teoria de la dependencia] was only mentioned in the 1960's and 1970's, while Francia had already mentioned it in 1810."

Laino added: "This is an extremely pleasant date. It reminds us what Paraguay was like: autonomous, independent, the owner of its resources, and the owner of its present and its future."

Later, Laino talked about the presidential inauguration ceremony, pointing out that, "in keeping with remarks by the regime's officials, we believe there is a political will to implement the democratic system that is sought by all Paraguayans, a participative and broad democracy, an effective state of law, and an unrestricted respect for human rights."

Asked about the opposition's role concerning this point, Laino said that it is "a very important role." He pointed out that, "at the congressional level, all the laws that can provide a juridical structure to strengthen that state of law must be drawn up." In this regard, Laino said it is urgent to draw up a new electoral law.

Peruvian Foreign Minister on Terrorism, Democracy

PY1605153689 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 16 May 89 P 5

["Exclusive" interview with Peruvian Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox by ABC Color reporters, on 15 May in Asuncion]

[Text][Question] Does your presence here signal the creation of a kind of continental democratic front, similar to the front of military governments of the past?

[Answer] Yes. The presence here of the foreign ministers of the Group of 8, with just one exception, was agreed during a previous conversation in which we decided that Paraguay must be given the chance that it deserves following the recent elections that reflected the will of the people. And this is what we want, the strengthening of democratic institutions.

[Question] What does all that mean?

[Answer] It means that the Paraguayan opposition was able to perform its supervisory role without obstacles, and that the process was observed by independent journalists, who made use of freedom of expression to guarantee the legitimacy of the process.

[Question] Your remarks are very significant, particularly now that the Peruvian Government is fighting a guerrilla force that jeopardizes the democratic system.

[Answer] Right. In Peru we are fighting for human rights. It is a well known fact that the world is rightly concerned about the human rights of those who are arrested during an antisubversive action. Yet there is little concern about the human rights of those who defend democracy, within a democracy. Democracy must defend itself. In this context the subject of responsibility is not well defined.

[Question] Do you mean that a military government is at times more effective?

[Answer] No. It is much more effective for repression, but I made it clear that subversion in a democracy is unjustified and that democratic governments do not promote human rights violations. If there are any human rights violations in a democracy, they stem from excesses by the repressive forces.

[Question] What is the diffrence between these types of repression?

[Answer] It is simple. In a dictatorship, repression is widespread and almost always arbitrary, and there is no one to defend human rights.

[Question] It is estimated that Alan Garcia has already shown that there is a limit to what a charismatic leader can do. In fact, he is young, handsome, and he is a good speaker. However, he could not solve the problems. What does Peru need in order to implement the much desired stabilization of the democratic institutions?

[Answer] Peru needs economic stability, because the ruling APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] party is engaged in the democratic process without government experience and with a strong desire to distribute wealth. The distribution of wealth was done during the first 2 and ½ years. The negative side of this is that domestic consumption was overstimulated. Even though it might seem contradictory, our productive apparatus needed more imported materials in order to increase local production. This led to a dangerous decrease in our reserves. Simultaneously, the bank nationalization law was set in motion. This provided the perfect framework for the destruction of the system. There was also the early start to the electoral campaign, and finally the radical opposition by the business sector of a democratic government.

[Question] There has also been a growth in the crime rate and the costly process of fighting the Shining Path guerrillas in the mountains and in urban terrorist actions. This could easily lead to the conclusion that Peruvian democracy does not have good prospects, right?

[Answer] Quite to the contrary. Democracy will be preserved even if the normal handing over of power to the new administration becomes the only objective of the recently installed cabinet. This, however, will become the sole objective only in an extreme situation. There are obviously other objectives, but I want to stress the significance that we attach to the handing over of power to the winner of clean elections, with guarantees for all opposition parties. This is how the democratic process will be preserved and this is how this government will attain one of its main targets.

IDB President Proposes Reinvestment of Debt

PY1505143789 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
14 May 89 p 9

[Text] Enrique Iglesias, president of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), arrived in our country yesterday. In the morning he met with the press to discuss the Latin American economic problem. The possibility of Paraguay negotiating its debt with the FRG emerged during this meeting. The debt would be reinvested in plans for improving the ecology. Moreover, Iglesias stated that Paraguay is interested in the Brady Plan, which provides for a reducion or a pardon of part of the debt. Paraguay is also negotiating a credit for the industrial sector with the IDB.

Paraguay will probably be able to negotiate its foreign debt with the FRG, which has granted important lines of credit to our country. This debt could be reinvested in a plan to improve the local ecology. According to Paraguay Finance Minister Enzo Debernardi, who yesterday participated in the news conference held by the IDB president, this possible debt exchange cannot yet be considered as a guideline for a program, but it is a commendable idea.

Paraguay is also interested in talking about a possible pardon of part of its debt.

The IDB president yesterday held a lengthy news conference on the economic situation in Latin America, followed by a roundtable meeting with reporters.

Iglesias stated that Paraguay, and other countries as well, could be interested in negotiating a forgiveness of part of its debt. This is already being done by Mexico and Venezuela, as an experimental stage of the so-called Brady Plan. He added that the Paraguayan situation is not very seriouis and that the current government is paying adequate attention to this matter.

During the round-table meeting, Debernardi mentioned the new idea of negotiating the overall debt through a mechanism of reinvestment in the country for the improvement of the ecological system, which could well be implemented in the Paraguay-FRG case. He said that the FRG is an important creditor. On this point, Iglesias sadi that, in fact, this issue is gaining force and that each respective nation should decide whether this mechanism will be beneficial for it. He stated, however, that everyone should clearly understand that territorial sovereignty and the right to use this territory rationally will be maintained. Once these conditions are met, each country will have the right to either accept or reject this system.

Iglesias went on to say that this mechanism is "very complex." He said that a guarantee will be necessary to make the mechanism feasible. He said that the guarantee will act as a trustee, Debernardi agreed to this idea. Iglesias added that Debernardi has stated that this idea was already under consideration.

Asked about the specific case of our country, Iglesias said that the recent renegotiation of our debt to Brazil, our main creditor, was a sensible and reasonable solution. He said that with that renegotiation we have not closed doors, rather we have expanded them, and the country can resort to the Brady Plan which implies debt renegotiation with IMF intervention, and the consequent reduction, or partial forgiveness, of the overall debt.

Answering another question, the IDB president referred to many positive conditions in the country, among which he noted that the government is managing to "avoid" inflation, and he urged the finance minister to keep up this policy. He also mentioned the existence of a diverse foreign front, the people's understanding of the economic policy, and tax control. "And the foreign debt is still at a point that allows the achievement of a better renegotiation mechanism," he said.

Health Minister Returns From Rome, Geneva

PY1405205289 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
13 May 89 p 10

[Excerpt] Juan Manuel Cano Melgarejo, minister of public health and social welfare, has returned from Europe after completing an important official mission. He participated first in a special meeting of Latin American and Caribbean health ministers in Rome, which was sponsored by the Italian Government and the WHO. He then attended the 42d WHO meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. [passage omitted]

Peru

Garcia Swears In Cabinet at Government House

PY1505183689 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
1800 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Today President Alan Garcia swore in the new cabinet presided over by Luis Alberto Sanchez. The ceremony took place at the Golden Room of Government House.

The ministers who joined the cabinet are: Cesar Vasquez Bazan at the Economy Ministry, Mario Samame Boggio at the Energy and Mines Ministry, Willy Harm Sparza at the Fisheries Ministry, and Julio Velasquez Giacarini at the Defense Ministry. David Tajada de Riverö returned to the Health Ministry.

Electric Power Supply Rationed in Lima

PY1105193589 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
1800 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Today, Electrolima announced via the '60 Minutes' program that the electric power supply service in Lima is being rationed.

Electrolima spokesman Romulo Chuquimio reported that the service will be rationed while the electric towers dynamited by terrorists in Huancayo are being repaired.

Chuquimio pointed out that enterprises and factories will be supplied with electric power during the day time. He added that electric power will be supplied to residential and suburban areas at night.

Chuquimio asked Electrolima's users to economize as much as possible and to cooperate with the emergency program that is being drawn up by Electrolima.

Further on Power Rationing

PY1205141289 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Electrolima and Electroperu [Peruvian State Electric Power Enterprise] have issued an official communique reporting that power will be rationed in a large region of the country in the wake of terrorist attacks on the main grid transmission lines of the center-northern network, which feeds the Santiago Antunez de Mayolo plant and the Restitucion plant on Mantaro River.

The communique states that the attacks were staged on the Jauja-La Oroya stretch during the evening of 10 May. This caused blackouts in Lima, and in an area that extended to Ica in the southern-central area, and to Chiclayo in the northern region.

In view of this situation, a rationing program has been enforced in a sector of Lima and in towns of the central-southern region and of the northern region. Priority is being given to the main utilities and to hospitals.

The Electrolima Public Relations Office has reported that a power rationing program has been implemented because of the damage caused to the central-northern grid. It was reported that the program provides for preferential power supply services for the centers that render essential public services, like clinics and hospitals.

Electrolima has announced that a new rotational power rationing program has been established for all the networks that feed Lima. As long as the emergency continues, all sectors will equitably share the electric power service.

Efforts are being made to supply the industrial sectors in the morning and during part of the afternoon, while residential sectors are being supplied in the evening.

Electroperu and Electrolima have both called on the residents of the affected zones to use as little power as possible, so that a larger number of consumers may benefit from the service.

Murders, Blackouts During 'Armed Strike'

PY1105210289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1647 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Lima, 11 May (EFE)—The authorities have reported here that the murder of an officer, the paralyzation of activities, blackouts, and a wave of attacks marked the 2d day of the 72-hour "armed strike" called by the Shining Path terrorist group in the Peruvian central mountain range.

The "armed strike," which has prompted the militarization of key provinces in the mountain range, is taking place just as President Alan Garcia is facing the serious ministerial crisis which began last Monday, some 15 months before the end of his 5-year presidential term in office.

Yesterday, Garcia unexpectedly suspended a visit in Huancayo Province, 315 km east of Lima. Huancayo is regarded as the main province of the central mountain range.

Meanwhile, power is being slowly restored in Lima. Two high-tension towers were dynamited in the oustskirts of Lima, causing a partial blockout in Lima and affecting the cities of Huaraz, Casma, and Huarmey, in the northern mountain range.

A military source that refused to be identified has admitted that the "armed struggle" has partially interrupted activities in Junin, Cerro de Paso, and Huanuco, the main departments of the mountain range. The large state-owned mines and 90 percent of the small and medium ones are to be found in these departments.

The source said that some Andean cities can not communicate with each other or with Lima because two key bridges were bombed despite that fact that heavily-armed soldiers and police patrols guard the area backed up by trucks mounted with weapons.

The source added that a group of Shining Path terrorists yesterday shot dead a man whom they identified as an Army officer who was on a bus that was intercepted near the city of Huancayo.

The terrorists also threw explosives at the offices of commercial banks, state-owned buildings, and wholesale markets of Huancayo.

Seven vehicles, whose drivers refused to obey the orders of Shining Path terrorists, were burned in the outskirts of Huancayo.

The military source said that the Military Command, headquartered in Huancayo, has reported that approximately 30 bombings have occurred since Tuesday. Some of these explosions damaged high-power electric towers, causing blackouts in several cities of the mountain ranges.

The shortage of electricity, and the fear of the terrorists and of the lootings, have paralyzed banks, factories, wholesale markets, shopping centers, train services, and all public buses in the departments that were threatened by the terrorists.

The military sources added that "the so-called armed strike has been partially observed by the people not voluntarily, but out of fear of the terrorists' bloody retaliations."

A spokesman from the CENTROMINPERU [Central Peruvian Mining Enterprise] state-owned enterprise, which runs about 10 multimetal mining centers in the central mountain range, has reported that despite the fact that some of the 12,000 miners did not go to work, mining production will be not affected.

The spokesman added that soldiers and policemen guard the camps, mining deposits, refineries, and concentration plants to avoid possible attacks and attacks on mining leaders.

2 Die in 72-Hour Strike

PY1205222189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1816 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Lima, 12 May (EFE)—Lima officials have reported that as a result of the 72-hour "armed strike" called by a terrorist group in three Andean departments, two people died, five policemen were injured, and at least $2 million was lost in property damage.

According to the source, all activities were paralyzed in Cerro de Pasco, Huanuco, and Junin Departments, not because the people observed the strike, but out of fear of the Maoist terrorist group Shining Path.

Peruvian President Alan Garcia yesterday visited Huancayo, capital of Junin Department, and verified the fear its inhabitants, who closed their stores, public offices, and markets for fear of Shining Path attacks.

"It is a shame to observe how rumors, pamphlets, and slogans can instill fear in the people to the degree of making them stop all activities," Garcia said. The president is scheduled to return to Lima today.

According to the Shining Path pamphlets calling for this "armed strike," the measure is meant to commemorate the 9th anniversary of the armed struggle. This is the second "armed strike" called by the terrorists in Huancayo since last December.

This measure and the recent murder of two deputies—one was a member of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA] and the other of the Communist Party—are considered the most serious attacks against the government since terrorism broke out in the country on 17 May 1980, a day before the first elections after 12 years of military governments were held.

Last night in Huancayo, 315 km east of Lima, Shining Path terrorists carried out several dynamite attacks against vehicles, stores, and a military neighborhood where Army officers live. A woman died, and a policeman and two passersby were seriously injured in the attacks.

The day before yesterday, near Huancayo, a subversive group murdered an Army officer who was traveling by bus. A few hours later, the same group attacked a police station in the mountain town of San Mateo and wounded four people.

In Cerro de Pasco, on the border with Junin, the police prevented 20 inmates from escaping from the local prison, repelling a terrorist commando attack that started with an explosion at the prison door.

A police spokesman reported that mining production was completely paralyzed in Cerro de Pasco Province since the "armed strike" was observed by the 12,000 miners who work for the Central Peruvian Mining Enterprise, the main state mining company. The same thing happened in the many metal mines of the region.

Despite the intense patrolling of soldiers and policemen in Cerro de Pasco and Junin Departments, the "armed strike" was observed by most of the people and three radio stations did not work after they received death threats.

APRA Senator Andres Quintana, representative for Huanuco, which borders Cerro de Pasco, said that banks, public offices, and stores stopped their activities out of fear of the terrorists.

To prevent possible attacks on buses and passengers in Lima, the transportation companies decided to suspend bus services to Junin, Cerro de Pasco, and Huanuco Departments, a zone that is considered the geographic and economic center of Peru, where the greatest agricultural activity and 90 percent of the Peruvian mines are concentrated.

Terrorists Attack Police Station; 3 Wounded

PY1205015089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2225 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Lima, 11 May (EFE)—The Lima Prefect's Office has reported that a corporal and three members of the National Peruvian Police were injured today during a terrorist attack on a police station in the town of San Mateo, 80 km east of Lima.

The policemen managed to repel the attack, which was presumably carried out by Shining Path guerrillas. The injured policemen have been taken to the Lima Police Forces hospital. The police station was seriously damaged during the terrorist attack.

20 APRA Congressmen Receive Death Threats

PY1205015889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2307 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Lima, 11 May (EFE)—It was reported in Lima today that 20 legislators of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Movement (APRA) have received death threats from alleged terrorists.

The warnings were made through anonymous letters and telephone calls. The revelation was made so that legislators can take precaution following the recent assassination of two deputies: one from the ruling APRA party and one from the United Left (IU), the second political force in Peru.

On 27 April alleged terrorists assassinated IU Deputy Eriberto Arroyo, and on 5 May another presumed subversive commando eliminated APRA deputy Pablo Li.

Yesterday the group of 20 APRA legislators relayed their concern to their party bloc in congress [CPA] and complained about the lack of police protection. The group said their two colleagues were assassinated because of lack of protection.

Armando Villanueva—former prime minister and interior minister who resigned on 9 May—said that the day before there had not been enough policemen to protect the 180 deputies and 60 senators.

"Congressmen are defenseless" said APRA Deputy Cristobal Campana, one of the deputies who received a threatening call. Deputies Victor Lozada, Juan Saldana, and Alejandro Ponce said that they had been attacked.

The CPA decided that, because of the current economic crisis, legislators should shoulder part of the cost of their protection by contracting private guards.

Journalist Receives Threats

PY1505011989 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0748 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Lima, 13 May (TELAM/EFE)—The Foreign Press Association in Peru (APEP) today charged in Lima that APEP President Alberto Ku King, a Peruvian journalist, has received death threats "as part of a criminal plot" designed to murder several personalities in this country.

In a communique, APEP reports that Ku King, director of the ANSA office in Peru, temporarily left the country on 10 May because he considered that his life was in danger. The communique does not state, however, where Ku King is staying now.

The communique, which was released yesterday at the end of a general assembly, states that the APEP president decided to leave the country after being informed on 8 May about the existence of a criminal plot and that his name was on a hit list.

The communique does not identify the source that informed Ku King of the death threat against him.

The APEP communique adds that the assembly "deems it its duty" to report on this situation, which "is an attack on freedom of the press in the country."

15 Guerrillas, 2 Soldiers Killed in Cuzco Clash

PY1305183789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1431 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Lima, 13 May (EFE)—At least 15 guerrillas and 2 soldiers died during a clash between an Army patrol and a group of terrorists near the township of Cotabambas, Cuzco Department, 1,000 km southeast of Lima.

The Lima newspaper EXPRESO reported today that a military patrol was ambushed by terrorists. The patrol managed to repel the attack and kill 15 terrorists. EXPRESSO added that some injured soldiers were taken to Lima.

The newspaper said that no official communique has yet been released on the attack.

Meanwhile, the power supply is being seriously restricted in Lima because terrorists bombed 12 high-tension towers late Wednesday and early Thursday.

The lack of power prevents the normal operation of service stations, leaves buildings without drinkable water, and makes traffic lights inoperable.

Several bombings were reported in Lima last night. No injuries were reported. The bombs only caused slight damage.

The terrorists have unsuccessfully tried to destroy another high-tension tower near Lima.

Terrorists also attempted to disable a telephone booth, the office of the civic center in Lima, and a radio station's antenna.

Ramon Morante, the development manager of the National Industry Society, said that power restrictions are causing serious losses to thousands of factories in Lima.

Shining Path Terrorists Kill 2 in Puno

PY1605121389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0249 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Lima, 15 May (EFE)—It was reported here today that a group of more than 20 Shining Path terrorists killed two people and tortured two policemen in a township of Puno Department, southeast of Peru.

The police said that on 12 May the terrorists attacked the township of Munani in Azangaro Province, some 1,320 km from Lima and used explosives to destroy the police station, City Hall, and the office of the state-owned telecommunications enterprise.

The terrorists killed the City Hall secretary and the manager of the Huayna Capac Agricultural Association, while a corporal and two policemen from the national police were tortured and then left seriously injured on the outskirts of Munani.

A police spokesman from Juliaca, one of the most important towns of Puno Department, bordering Bolivia, said that a column of approximately 50 policemen has been deployed in the area of Munani to capture the terrorists.

INE Director Fired Over Economic Figures

PY1305191389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0025 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Lima, 12 May (EFE)—On 11 May, the Peruvian Government dismissed Ulises Robles Freyre, president of the National Institute of Statistics [INE], because it believes that the April inflation rate of 48.6 percent, published by the INE, was exaggerated.

By a decree published by the official newspaper EL PERUANO on 11 May, Robles Freyre was dismissed without explanation.

Peruvian President Alan Garcia harshly criticized the figures published by the INE. According to the INE, the cost of living rose 343 percent in the first 4 months of 1989.

Garcia said that Robles Freyre "has manipulated" the figure since January, adding that the results of studies on inflation conducted by private firms showed lower percentages than those provided by the INE.

Today INE employees declared a 48-hour strike to protest the dismissal.

Opposition congressmen believe that in view of Freyre's dismissal, INE figures will be unreliable in the future.

Senator Gaston from the center-rightist Popular Action Party criticized the government's measure. He said: "An official, who is a member of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance Party, has been dismissed despite the fact that he had displayed total independence and honesty in his official post."

Uruguay

Sanguinetti Returns to Country From Paraguay

PY1605023489 Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 May 89

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic, Julio Maria Sanguinetti, returned to the country a few minutes ago.

As we had reported previously, President Sanguinetti today attended the inauguration of the new Paraguayan constitutional president.

Comments on President Bush

PY1605125089 Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti has said upon returning from Asuncion that the Uruguayan people are closely following the Paraguayan democratic opening. In statements to a Radio Carve reporter in Carrasco Airport, President Sanguinetti gave great importance to U.S. President George Bush's attitude of talking with Latin American presidents to analyze the Panamanian situation.

[Sanguinetti recording indistinct]

Sends Congratulations to Menem

PY1705022789 Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] President Julio Maria Sanguinetti has sent a message of congratulations and greetings to Argentine President-elect Carlos Saul Menem.

The text of the message reads:

I wish to congratulate you on your victory. The cleanness of the recent elections exalts Argentine democracy. I wish you the best of luck in the difficult task you have undertaken and reiterate our desire to work together for the friendship of our people and the freedom and progress of the Latin American countries.

Venezuela

Request To Join Nonaligned Movement Withdrawn

PA1605170989 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1629 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The Venezuelan Government has decided to postpone its request to join the Nonaligned Movement in order to focus its attention on the upcoming OAS Permanent Council meeting to be held in Washington.

This was reported by Acting Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart.

[Begin Figueredo recording] In view of the events taking place in Panama, our government has decided to conduct an in-depth analysis at the OAS meeting of the circumstances the Panamanian people are experiencing. Therefore, so as not to make it easier for Panama to have a futile discussion at the Nonaligned Movement meeting, we have notified the Nonaligned Movement meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe that Venezuela will resume the procedure to request [admission to the Nonaligned Movement] at the first opportunity that it deems suitable. [end recording]

Guyana

Minister Discusses Need for Recovery Program

FL1505175089 Bridgetown CANA in English 2202 GMT 13 May 89

[By Vashti Mahrat]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 13, CANA—Guyana's finance minister, Carl Greenidge, is convinced that the people of Guyana understand the need for the country's controversial Economic Recovery Programme (ERP). Greenidge has criticised opposition leader Dr Cheddi Jagan for calling for strikes even before an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (TME) was completed. Greenidge, in Port-of-Spain for a meeting of the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development (CGCED), also painted a new picture of a more caring IMF when he spoke to CANA Friday.

Responding to a question about calls by groups both within and without Guyana for some sort of action by the Caribbean governments in light of the chaotic situation there following the controversial 1989 budget, Greenidge said that the had not heard of these calls, but maintained: "The people of Guyana recognise that the current situation, (in) which there is pressure on incomes, there is inflation, deterioration in the physical stock of our assets, is one that is undesirable and therefore I think they understand that need for a programme that will (improve conditions)."

He said that Jagan, in Trinidad earlier this week pleading his country's case, did not have a programme to deal with those difficulties facing the country but chose to call for strikes since 1988 even before the IMF agreement had been completed. "...for the workers to stop producing is not a situation that would enhance income. That's not going to lead to higher growth rates, its not going to lead to increased diversification, it isn't going to produce us more bauxite, and it certainly is not going to lead to donors providing us with assistance," Greenidge said.

Guyanese sugar and bauxite workers have been on strike since early April, protesting against the government's 1989 budget. The budget, which launched the recovery programme, included a 70 per cent devaluation of the Guyana dollar and a 20 per cent increase in pay for public workers. Trade unions say the pay hike is too small. The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana, a seven member group which backs the strike, has been pressing for talks with the government on the issue. Greenidge maintained that contrary to report, his government had always dealt with the trade unions and had established two committees to look at scope for further wage increases for workers. On the IMF, he agreed that the last programme had not worked very successfully, and said that IMF programmes in the past had "never been conditional agreements'. "In other words, if the external environment changes that is just tough...the IMF agreements prior to 1985 had no reference, they would make no allowance whatsoever for the adverse social consequences of the measures, particularly in the short term," Greenidge said. But this is different now, he maintained. Although the fund itself does not finance a social impact programme because that was not its mandate, it did go to other multilateral agencies and recommended that they help in some way, Greenidge said.

Help could be through providing income supplements for the poor or some nutritional programmes "to ameliorate or attenuate the adverse consequences of our programme" he remarked. "They never even acknowledged that as being necessary, it is being acknowledged that as being necessary, it is being acknowledged now," Greenidge said.

Bauxite Workers Reject Back-to-Work Call

FL1705125389 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Guyanese bauxite workers have rejected a back-to-work call by their union. A relief package hammered out by the government and bauxite union negotiators was rejected by the union's rank and file. They are continuing a 6-week-long strike at the same time sugar workers are ending their work stoppage in Guyana.

About 50 percent of the country's sugar workers have returned to work. The Guyana Sugar Corporation estimates that about 3,000 tons of sugar was lost or destroyed by arson during the 6-week strike.

Suriname

Unions Want Government Reaction To Demands

FL1605181489 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The four trade union federations, De Moederbond, the C-47 [Centrale 47], the civil service organization CLO [Central Organization for Civil Service Employees], and the Progressive Workers' Organization, PWO, have declared that they want a clear reaction from the government on the demands they submitted on the day of protest on 5 May last.

This was stated during a meeting held yesterday by the four trade union federations during which they exchanged ideas about the current political situation in the country. The leadership of the four trade union federations criticized the National Assembly and accused assembly members of making fancy speeches instead of solving the problems facing the country. The four trade unions will meet on coming Friday with the boards of the member unions.

Tobacco Workers Strike

FL1605184089 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Workers at the British American Tobacco Company in Suriname, Batco, yesterday morning went on strike because management refused to pay them for the day of protest on 5 May last which was called by the trade union movement.

Batco Director (Juda) is of the opinion that the no-work no-pay principle should be adopted. He said that the workers could be paid if they work extra hours, or if they are assigned leave for that day. The workers in the meantime refused to work this morning. Director (Juda) told our newsroom that the management sticks to its position which means that the workers will not be paid for staying away from work on the day of protest.

The trade union movement in relation to the Batco affair was warned against taking sanctions against workers. Companies should now realize that they are not fighting against individual trade unions but the entire trade union movement, according to a spokesman of the trade union movement.

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